

Dancing partners take the floor by storm

As my noble friend well knows, it takes two to tango. Baroness Chalker of Wallasey paused, tantalisingly. Could she, would she, dare she say "tango"? With Lady Chalker it might take two to tango, but it would take four to clear the wreckage from the dance floor. A substantial green plaid two-piece suit of car-rug design, Lady Chalker occupied a place on the government front bench in the Lords yesterday a yard from Baroness Trumpington — an older baroness built on similarly monumental lines.

Lady Chalker, Minister for Overseas Development, is known in her department as

"the African Queen" and revered among the tribes of the Great Lakes as a great white benefactress and semi-deity. Lady Trumpington, beside whom the late Margaret Thatcher appeared wimpish, is affectionately known by fellow-whips as Trumper. Two big ladies. The thought of them tangoing with each other was distracting, the thought of either tangoing with anyone else, terrible.

... to organise a ceasefire. Our faces fell. The lady was not for tangoing.

The bishops, however, were. Often hesitant on the great issues of our day, especially at home, bishops in the Lords leap to life whenever the troubled zone is more than



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH



about 3,000 miles away. The more distant the walls of Jericho, the more certain the sound of the trumpet. Baroness Cox had asked about conflict in the Sudan, and most of the bishops' bench began fidgeting in their white frocks, anxious to intervene.

The Bishop of Ripon, the Rt Rev David Young, told Lady Chalker how worried he was about the Sudan. Lady Chalker said we all were. The Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Rev Keith Sutton, said it was really a matter of African leadership, as he had learnt when in East Africa, training the Sudanese for the priesthood.

been that it takes two to tango, she would have read from her tidy notes: "The effective execution of an Argentine-negro dance-pattern with Parisian developments in four-four time requires a dual ongoing human resource commitment in a contemporaneous two-person situation."

During these exchanges your sketchwriter became aware of an unusual undercurrent. Peers were restive. Peers were fractious. Whenever more than one of their number wished to speak, a great muttering would arise among them as to which should be first. They seemed in truculent mood. Can it be that their many recent rebellions, the enhanced reputation

as troublemakers these have earned, and the (for many) novel experience of being quoted in the daily newspapers, have gone slightly to their lordships' noble heads? Are we witnessing the birth of Peers with Attitude?

As I left, Lord Monkswell (Lab) was commending his Dignity at Work Bill. It is designed to outlaw bullying in the workplace. Such a measure is unlikely to find favour among the Tory whips in the House of Commons.

Lord Monkswell had a luxuriant beard and what seemed to be blow-dried hair, in a fine mane. "What kind of a peer is he?" I asked one of his colleagues in the lobby. "Nuts."

Blair puts party right on jobs for life row

Tony Blair yesterday told his frontbench team to set the record straight over his plans to tackle job insecurity with four or five-year contracts. He was upset at reports that Labour was to offer public sector unions a new "jobs for life contract", resurrecting memories of the old social pact with the unions under the last Labour government.

William Waldegrave, the Treasury Chief Secretary, said Labour was trying "to set the clock back". "They try to say something which is pleasant for the public sector unions and contradict it with another message for the markets."

Lib Dem's reform call

The Liberal Democrats called on Labour to hold a referendum on electoral reform early in a first Parliament so that any change could be implemented in time for the following election. The demands will be put forward today at a meeting of the Lib Dem-Labour working party on electoral reform. The committee is due to report this month but the eight members are said to be split.

£60m prescription fraud

Prescription fraud costs £60 million a year, the Health Department said yesterday. A government inquiry to examine ways of stemming the losses has identified some of the commonest frauds as pharmacists claiming reimbursement for false prescriptions and pocketing the difference between the prescription charge of £5.50 and the cost of the drugs when these are lower.

Too hot for penguins

Penguin populations in Antarctica are being wiped out as warmer temperatures destroy their habitats, according to Greenpeace. Numbers on the Antarctic peninsula have fallen from 15,200 breeding pairs 20 years ago to 9,200 pairs today, a report says. Warmer weather hits Adelle penguins by melting the sea ice that forms their preferred winter habitat, and increases snowfall, burying nesting sites.

Jury out on Howells

The jury in the Eve Howells murder trial was sent home last night after considering their verdicts all day. The members will resume their deliberations today. David Howells, 43, a maintenance fitter, and his sons Glenn, 17, and John, 16, have denied murdering Mrs Howells at their home in Huddersfield, west Yorkshire, on August 31 1995. Glenn has admitted manslaughter.

The Sweet singer dies

Brian Connolly, the singer of the 1970s glam rock band The Sweet, has died, aged 52. Connolly, whose hits included *Blockbuster*, *Ballroom Blitz* and *Wig-Wag Bam*, died of renal failure in hospital in Slough. He had had several heart attacks since 1981. The Sweet sold 50 million records worldwide. Connolly left in 1979 but his solo career was dogged by ill health. *Obituary, page 19*

E. coli outbreak grows

Two new cases of *E. coli* have been reported in Arbroath, bringing the number of cases in the most recent outbreak to ten. An 83-year-old female resident of a nursing home was admitted to hospital in Dundee and a nurse at the home tested positive for the bacterium. One elderly woman has already died and three more people are in hospital. All but three of the cases have stemmed from the nursing home.

Man held for murder

An Englishman was last night being questioned by Irish police about the murder of the French film producer Sophie Toscani du Plantier, right, who was found dead on a remote lane in Cork at Christmas. The man, aged 40, was arrested at his run-down cottage in Dunmurry, West near Skull shortly after 10am yesterday. His girlfriend, also English, was arrested shortly afterwards.



Floods hit Scotland

Rivers in Scotland burst their banks yesterday after a day of torrential rain and winds of up to 60mph. Parts of Dumfries, Gretna Green and Annan were under water. Dumfries and Galloway police said: "There have been serious problems virtually all along the Solway coast." The Leven burst its banks in Dunbarton. *Forecast, page 24*

Millennium countdown

Churches of all denominations are to begin the countdown to the year 2000 with a "service of preparation" on the Sunday after Easter, the thirtieth day before the millennium. The service was produced by Churches Together in England out of concern that if churches do not play a greater role, an opportunity for mission will be lost.

Psychiatrist at Ashworth Hospital suspended

By Philip Webster and Russell Jenkins

A CONSULTANT psychiatrist has become the fourth member of staff at Ashworth Hospital to be suspended after the discovery of pornography and allegations that a child was smuggled in and sexually abused. Dr Ian Strickland was in charge of the ward in which child pornography, cannabis, alcohol and weapons were found last month.

It has also emerged that Simon Burns, a junior Health Minister, questioned senior managers at the Liverpool top-security hospital in October about press allegations that had just begun to surface, and was told that they were unfounded.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, announced the latest suspension in a Commons statement. The other members of staff, including Janice Mills, the hospital's chief executive, were suspended on Friday when the allegations were made public.

Mr Dorrell told MPs that the inquiry into claims that a paedophile ring was operating at the hospital's Personality Disorder Unit, which holds some of the country's most dangerous offenders, would report within a year. He said the allegations were "extremely serious" and action taken on Friday was aimed at reassuring the public the hospital was properly managed and patients were receiving a high standard of care.

He said allegations about drug misuse, financial irregularities, the availability of

pornographic material and possible paedophile activity had been made by a patient, Stephen Daggett, last October. Despite a search on January 17, which found "a large amount of pornographic material", the hospital continued to maintain that press reports about what was going on in the Personality Disorder Unit were unfounded.

The new acting chief executive, sent into the hospital yesterday, is Erville Millar, formerly chief executive of the Lambeth Health Care Trust. He has forbidden children to visit wards in the hospital and in future they will only be allowed to visit under strict supervision and by prior arrangement. Visitors to the hospital will no longer be able to walk unescorted around the grounds and former patients will be barred.

He said his job was to restore public confidence in the secure hospital, to take stock of its clinical regime and to liaise with both the police investigation and the judicial inquiry. He said staff "look forward to an inquiry looking into all these issues."

Mr Dorrell said that the report of the inquiry, led by the recently-retired senior circuit judge, Peter Fallon, QC, would be published.

Tessa Jowell, Labour health spokeswoman, said the revelations exposed "the dreadful inadequacy of the monitoring systems which are supposed to ensure safety at high-security hospitals".



Flint, former head of Royal College of Midwives, was sued with a colleague.

Home birth midwives to pay £840,000 in damages

By Jeremy Laurence, Health Correspondent

THE former president of the Royal College of Midwives yesterday agreed to pay £840,000 damages to a six-year-old boy who was brain damaged at birth.

Caroline Flint, head of the college for three years until last December, was sued with her colleague Valerie Taylor over a home birth they attended in 1991. The two independent midwives, who run the Special Midwifery Practice in south London,

agreed to pay the damages to Margaret Baber, 46, whose son, Guy, was born with cerebral palsy.

Mrs Baber began her labour at home in north London, attended by the two midwives, but was later transferred to hospital where the baby was delivered by forceps. Medical experts called on behalf of Guy said that Ms Flint and Ms Taylor failed to heed, or ignored, clear warning signs of foetal distress. If they had used continuous foetal heart monitoring, it was more likely than not that

much earlier intervention would have occurred with the delivery of an undamaged baby two hours before he was actually born. Laura Cox, QC, counsel for Guy, said: "The midwives' case, also supported by medical experts, was that labour seemed to be progressing well and there was nothing untoward until 20 minutes before delivery. They denied liability and claimed that continuous monitoring would have made no difference. The £840,000 will be paid by the midwives' insurers."

Border control row looms

By James Landale, Political Reporter

THE European Commission insisted yesterday that it will press ahead with its plans to scrap Britain's veto over European immigration and border control policy.

Anita Gradin, the Home Affairs Commissioner, said that the Brussels executive would back the proposal at a summit in June despite the Government's opposition. She claimed that organised crime was flourishing in the European Union because member states were not co-operating fully on border controls.

At present joint policies in sensitive areas are decided on

an intergovernmental basis, which means they can be blocked if any one country objects. Under the Commission's plans, immigration and border controls would come under EU jurisdiction, with decisions made by qualified majority voting. Britain would be able to block a policy only if it had the support of several other countries.

Tory Eurosceptics condemned the plan and the Foreign Office said: "The Government would not accept this move and we have made that clear."

But Mrs Gradin, speaking

in London, said that the intergovernmental approach to European home affairs had not worked. Only Britain opposed the new plans and the failure of countries to reach agreement on key policies could "destroy the common goal of integrating with each other".

Weak border controls had allowed a modern slave trade to develop, with women being smuggled into the EU and forced into prostitution, she said. "It is not effective to take action in one country alone. There has to be co-operation to tackle this sort of crime."

Land for homes challenged

By Ian Murray, Community Correspondent

AN ENTIRE county is to become a test case in a campaign that aims to force the Government to change its strategy for finding the land to build the 4.4 million new homes that will be needed over the next two decades.

The battle between the planners and conservationists is to be joined in West Sussex, where the Environment Department wants 58,000 homes built by 2011. The county is prepared to accept no more than 47,000 and the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England wants even fewer. A public meeting to

night at Horsham will launch the campaign before the start of the official examination in public of the rival cases next week.

The examination, held before a panel of two including an inspector and a former county planning officer, will hear evidence from local authorities, the CPRE, the Wildlife Trust and representatives of different developers. The hearings will last about two weeks with a final report due in May. The Government can ignore the conclusion if it is in favour of the county, but it will have to give clear reasons why

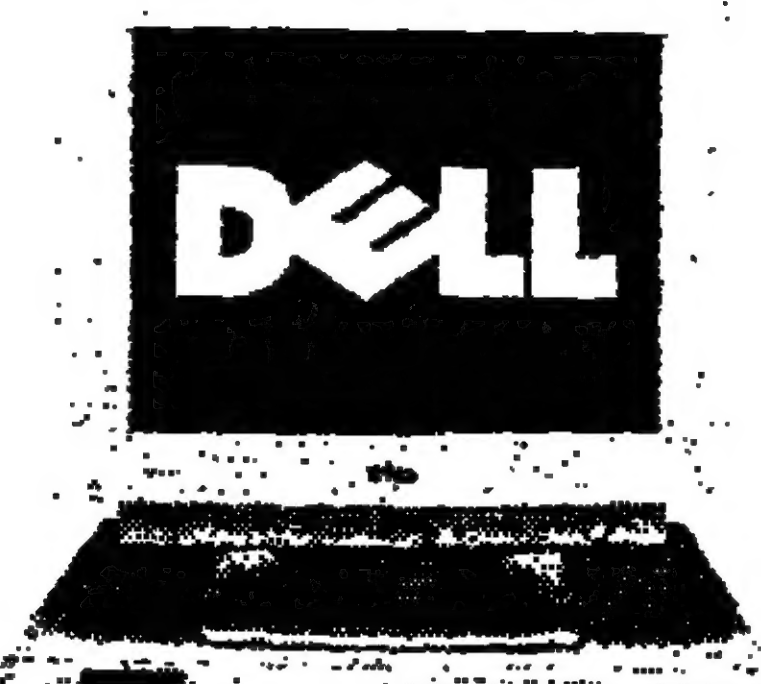
it is doing so. In similar earlier cases Bedfordshire, Berkshire and Kent all failed to persuade the department to let them build fewer houses than laid down by the Government's regional planning guidance. Bedfordshire must build 2,100 more than it wants, Berkshire and Kent have to build an extra 3,000 each.

Seven other counties also want their allocation cut, and are looking to West Sussex as a test case. More than half the county is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

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Prison electronics lessons spawned cashpoint scam

By DANIEL MCGROVEY

A FRAUDSTER who took electronics lessons while in prison used his skills to milk cash dispensers as an almost perfect fraud.

Mindy Fairchild, 32, built a secret camera to film bank customers as they entered their security numbers and also tampered with the cash machines so that they retained the cards. When the customers went into the banks to complain, Fairchild retrieved their cards and plundered their accounts.

Detectives estimated that Fairchild made more than £100,000. Sentencing him to five years' jail yesterday, Judge Bray said: "You were playing for high stakes and you lost."

Police and banks were concerned last night not to disclose too much of Fairchild's ingenious operation. The judge said: "If your methods were copied they could put at risk the whole cashpoint system in this country."

Northampton Crown Court was told that Fairchild had dreamed up the fraud to raise money to bribe Malaysian authorities to provide British residency qualifications for his Malaysian wife, Mui, and her 12-year-old son. Mrs Fairchild, 39, who had been living in Britain illegally, was arrested with him in Enfield.

She was jailed for 12 months after admitting two counts of theft, and walked hand in hand with her husband from the dock. She was released later because she had served



Mui Fairchild: in dock with her husband

18 months on remand, but was told that she faced deportation.

Her husband admitted 18 specimen counts of theft, three charges of attempted theft and going equipped for theft. Judge Bray ordered the couple's financial assets to be seized.

The court was told that Fairchild had bought most of his equipment from high street stores and put it together at his home in Wellingborough, which police said had been turned into an electronics factory. He had a mock-up of a cash dispenser to help him to perfect the position of his camera.

The camera was hidden inside a one-inch deep false panel attached to the side of cash machines, which to the unsuspecting appeared only to be advertising what credit cards could be used. Near the

bottom of the ten by six inch panel was a hole through which the camera monitored the keypad. There was also room inside for a transmitter. Fairchild sat near by in his car with a receiver and a video screen, on which the camera picture was shown, fitted into a briefcase.

He also doctored the machines with a device known as a Lebanese Loop, which fitted over the mouth of the card slot and retained cards. The machine was rigged so that the screen would tell customers there was a problem with their card and they should contact their branch. When they left, Fairchild retrieved the card and, with the identity number, withdrew money at will.

Fairchild, who changed his name from Mahinder Singh Rupal to "sound more English", operated on banks throughout London and the Home Counties. He was trapped by a surveillance operation, which detectives began after receiving a tip-off.

He was arrested last June while using a cash dispenser in Enfield, north London, while he had £2,500 in cash. He had only recently been released from a ten-month sentence for stealing credit cards, after employing the crude approach of simply watching customers tap in their numbers.

Detectives believe that he made more than £100,000. Money was traced to five bank accounts and a police source said last night: "He could have a whole lot more well hidden."

The court was told that Fairchild lived modestly in a terraced house he had bought for £24,000 after being freed from prison. His barrister, David Newbury, told the court: "The house was in a poor area so it's not as if the benefits of the fraud have meant that he lived a champagne lifestyle."

Mr Newbury described Fairchild as a "shrewd and intelligent man but one who was not able to succeed in life in the usual way". Despite his gift for electronics, he could find only poorly paid work.



The tiny hole in the false panel made by Mindy Fairchild, through which cashpoints were filmed

Police take-away surprises diners

By A STAFF REPORTER

DINERS looked on as armed police arrested an alleged blackmail gang yesterday in a McDonald's restaurant in Oxford Street, London.

Undercover officers mingled with customers as they watched the two men and a 19-year-old woman, who are believed to have been blackmailing a wealthy West End businessman.

Police watched as a go-between from the businessman handed over a briefcase containing what the gang thought was £50,000 in cash. It is believed that the gang had threatened to inform the wife of the businessman, who is believed to be in his 40s, about an alleged sexual affair.

Acting on a signal, the officers, dressed in civilian clothes, drew their guns, pulled on police caps for identification and surrounded the gang as they sat drinking coffee. Customers and passersby dived for cover as police in the restaurant shouted at the gang to put up their hands.

Other officers in Oxford Street poured into the restaurant in an operation that involved 50 police.

The suspects were made to lie on the floor and searched by the officers from Scotland

Yard's SO19 firearms unit. Yesterday's raid was the culmination of a two-week surveillance operation that began when the businessman — who does not wish to be identified — contacted police after receiving blackmail demands.

Scotland Yard said last night that a 19-year-old woman was among those arrested. She was still being questioned last night.

Two men were also held. One is said to be a Spanish national aged 21, who lives in Ilford; the other is believed to be in his early 20s.

A police spokesman said last night: "This was a highly secretive and sensitive operation which passed off peacefully. The suspects were not armed."

A spokesman for McDonald's said: "We had no idea there was a police operation under way until officers came into the restaurant. It happened at lunchtime when the Marble Arch restaurant is very busy."

"There was no real disturbance to other customers and the police were very professional throughout."

Police removed the store's security video tape for examination, he added.

US actors' union bans British Ibsen

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THERE are fears of a tit-for-tat dispute between New York's Broadway and London's West End after the American actors' union refused to grant work permits to three prominent British actors.

The denial of temporary US permits to Owen Teale, John Curdise and Peter Gower jeopardised the Broadway transfer of their production of Ibsen's *A Doll's House*. Actors' Equity, the trade union for American performers, decided that their parts could equally well be filled by domestic players.

The veteran producer Bill Kenwright, who had planned a 16-week run of the successful production at Broadway's Belasco Theatre, was furious. He is to appeal.

Broadway and the West End operate a mutually-beneficial system under which a limited number of work permits is available for foreign "stars", but the three performers failed to qualify.

To do so, an actor needs to have an international reputation and may be required to provide documentary proof of high earnings or prove they can offer "unique services". The New York-



Louise Woodward in a photograph she had sent to her mother from America

Baby's death leaves nanny facing murder charge in US

FROM JAMES BONE IN BOSTON AND ADRIAN LEE

A BRITISH nanny is facing a murder or manslaughter charge in the United States today after a nine-month-old baby in her care died from a brain haemorrhage.

Prosecutors in Middlesex County, near Boston, Massachusetts, said they planned to seek a murder indictment against Louise Woodward, 18, of Elton, Cheshire. She is accused of shaking Matthew Eappen to death. He died yesterday in Boston Children's Hospital after spending the weekend on a life-support machine.

Jill Rielly, a spokeswoman for the Middlesex County District Attorney's office, confirmed yesterday that prosecutors did intend to bring further charges against Miss Woodward. But she said the timing was unclear and that a new indictment might not be issued for "a couple of weeks".

Under Massachusetts law, Miss Woodward can be charged simply with murder, in which case it is up to the jury to decide the severity of the case. Murder in the first degree carries a life sentence; murder in the second degree also carries life but allows the possibility of parole after 15 years; manslaughter, which is also considered a murder or homicide charge, carries a sentence of up to 20 years.

Ms Rielly said that prosecutors were debating whether to charge Miss Woodward with a specific level of homicide or simply a blanket murder indictment.

Prosecutors said that Miss Woodward, who called an ambulance to the Eappen's home in a Boston suburb last Tuesday, has admitted shaking Matthew and throwing him on a pile of towels in the bathroom. She has already pleaded not guilty to a charge of battery of a child.

Miss Woodward, unable to meet bail of £62,500, is being held at a women's prison in Framingham. She is expected to appear in court today.

Her mother Susan said: "All the news had been positive and because we hadn't heard anything about Mat-

thew's condition, we assumed he was getting better. That is all we were praying for. When I heard he had died I was devastated."

Mrs Woodward spoke to her daughter on Sunday, before the baby died. She described Louise as "a normal 18-year-old — fun-loving, outgoing, lively, enjoys going out — very much a family girl who loves her family".

Her father Gary, a builder, said: "She is a normal girl. She is strong — I wouldn't say she is too strong, though. We are expecting her to deal with something that in anyone's lifetime they wouldn't ever expect to have to deal with. I just hope she will be strong, keep believing in herself and keep herself together."

Miss Woodward's previous employer, Harris Komishane, of Manchester-by-the-Sea, said she started working for his family in July, but left in November because she did not want to abide by an 11pm curfew. Mr Komishane said he and his wife Lauren had been shocked to learn that the au pair was charged with assault. They had no reason to suspect that their child had been harmed but would have him examined.

Miss Woodward had also looked after the Eappen's elder child, Brendan.



Susan Woodward: was devastated at news

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Cheltenham governors driven by market forces, says sacked head

By DAVID CHARTER

THE former headmaster of Cheltenham College, sacked after the school slipped in the A-level tables, yesterday accused the governors of being more interested in the bank balance than their pupils. Peter Wilkes said the governing council ran an imaginary school based only on its surplus and examination statistics.

He was speaking publicly for the first time since he became the most prominent victim of what independent school heads refer to as "football manager syndrome". He said the council did not realise parents and students wanted more from the £12,000-a-year school than A-level grades. He was backed yesterday by the parents' committee, which fought in vain for his reinstatement. Mark Hicks-Beach,

a member of the committee, said: "The main thrust seems to be that the council and Peter Wilkes had different ideas for Cheltenham College, which is certainly what the parents feel. I do not think parents cared too much for league tables in the sense that the pupils were happy and were doing well enough for the parents to be satisfied."

The council has maintained that league tables were not the major factor in Mr Wilkes's dismissal and that he did not share their views on the direction of the school.

Mr Wilkes, who initially refused to resign, agreed after five months to leave this summer. He announced yesterday that he would become head of Arden Lawn School at Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire. Speaking at Arden Lawn, a

newly created senior school at Emscote Lawn, a preparatory school, he said schools were being driven too much by market forces. "I believe league tables are a very useful tool for schools and are very good at concentrating the mind on academic performance," he said. "But we must look at the wider picture when we are talking about education and I do not feel the governors of Cheltenham were altogether focused on that."

He said he was united with the parents against the governors in wanting to maximise every child's potential. "The governors, however, I feel, were concerned with maximising rolls and the school surplus. Perhaps they thought I was not the man to achieve that aim but ironically I wanted to achieve increased rolls but my approach was different."

GENERAL ELECTION THIS SATURDAY.

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Press jilt
wedding



Sams intend
to kill hostage
in cell. court to



Woman in fatal
crash

The cameras, fans and a vanload of flowers were there – all that was missing were Liam and Patsy

Press jilted at showbiz wedding that never was

By Joe Joseph
and Damian Whitworth

THE world might have been sighing in sympathy yesterday on hearing that Liam Gallagher of Oasis and the actress Patsy Kensit had been forced to postpone their secret wedding ceremony, if only the world hadn't been so busy guffawing at the official reason given for them scrubbing the event.

As scores of photographers drank their tenth takeaway coffee outside the wedding venue in Knightsbridge, a spokesman for the couple blamed the cancellation on "obsessive and intrusive media attention".

This from Liam Gallagher, the man who is either too naive to grasp that behaving like an orang-utan in public is a surefire way of getting yourself into the papers, or who otherwise must be assiduously courting the acres of press coverage he gets.

And this also from the already twice-married Patsy,



Liam Gallagher and Patsy Kensit, who said they wanted their wedding to be private and special



who appears to move like a heat-seeking missile to whoever is the hottest rock star of the day.

Hands up who knows what Gallagher and Kensit were doing last Tuesday? Or the Friday before that? Most of us don't know. Fewer care. If they wanted to wed in secret, and in private, nobody would

have stopped them. With details of yesterday's bash at Searcy's, behind Harrods, leaked in detail to the tabloids, their wedding was an even worse kept secret than Joan Collins's real age.

And does anyone who truly craves a quiet wedding investigate the possibility – as Liam and Patsy apparently

did – of getting spliced at Wembley Stadium?

Then the couple compounded the public sniggering by adding in their statement that "obsessive and intrusive media attention" had "removed any dignity from what was to be a private and special occasion".

Reporters and photographers – and the television breakfast show broadcast from the pavement – trying to stay dry outside the couple's London home in St John's Wood got an inkling that the marriage might be on ice after Gallagher barked down his intercom: "I'm not getting married today, I'm in bed."

Outside Searcy's, the hired marriage venue at 30 Pavilion Road, Knightsbridge, policemen, who had earlier set up barricades to pen in the camera crews began removing them shortly before noon. They left, announcing that they had been told that the wedding was off. At 2.15pm, Lavender Green, a florist's in



Oasis fans with lilies they were presented with after florists came to empty the unneeded reception venue

Windsor, Berkshire, returned to the venue – apparently just eight hours after having delivered £1,260 worth of "white lilies, bare grass, and palms" – to remove their wares. Halfway through loading their van, the task seemed to die on them and the two Lavender Green women began distributing the lilies to the five or six teenage girls who had bothered to turn up to see the absent couple. Maybe Liam and Patsy called

the whole thing off after realising that while photographers were out in force, fewer than a dozen fans had bothered to make the pilgrimage to either their house or the wedding venue. It certainly wasn't a Lennon-Yoko or Jagger-Hall-sized gathering.

"I'm disappointed I didn't get to see Liam," sighed Jodie Reddick, 17, from Hammer-smith, west London, after being handed a bunch of now surplus lilies. "But I don't

think Patsy's the right one for him. She's a bit vacant."

After another half-hour had passed, a Searcy's van came to load up the champagne, lager, Guinness and Jack Daniels that were to have lubricated the reception. The tag-end gaggle of photographers unscrewed their lenses and headed home from the wedding that never was.

Shameless cynics are even suggesting that the whole hullabaloo might have been a

publicity stunt to divert attention away from rival band Blur's new album, *Blur*, which was released yesterday.

According to Westminster register office, the couple took out six special licences on Friday, nominating a different venue for the marriage on each. The licences are valid for three months, which means the couple could milk all the publicity until early May. Watch out for an election day wedding on May 1.

Sams intended to kill hostage in cell, court told

By Joanna Bale

CONVICTED prisoner Michael Sams threatened a probation officer with a sharpened rod and put tape around her neck in an attempt to kill her, a court was told yesterday.

Sams, 54, imprisoned Julia Flack, the wife of the Archbishop of Pontefract, the Ven John Flack, in a cell at Wakefield prison, intending to hold her hostage to draw attention to his grievances as an inmate. But as he held her underneath him on the floor, ignoring her screams for help, his thoughts turned to murder, Peter Collier, QC, for the prosecution, said.

Mrs Flack was forced to face her alleged attacker at Durham Crown Court yesterday as he cross-examined her for ten minutes after sacking his barrister.

Mr Collier said Sams, who denies attempted murder and false imprisonment, had taken a sharpened rod from a prison workshop and a length of tape and asked when a female probation officer would next attend. He waited quietly in line and was the sixth or seventh inmate seen by Mrs Flack, 50, a probation officer for 27 years.

"Sams then produced the weapon and warned her if she touched the alarm button she would be dead," Mr Collier said. Sams expected that, "as a mere woman, would melt with fear," Mr Collier said. "He didn't reckon with Mrs Flack.

He didn't know her. What she did was to feel for the panic button.

"He saw her reach out and he said 'Right, you're dead'," Hearing screams, prison officers and inmates forced their way into the cell.

They found Mrs Flack on the floor with Sams on top of her. An examination later revealed marks around her neck consistent with it having compressed for between 15 to 20 seconds, Mr Collier said.

He added: "When she went for the panic button his plan quickly changed. At that point his intention was not less than to kill."

Mrs Flack told the court: "I saw that he had in his hand a long metal object and a piece of sewing tape and I noticed that the metal object was sharpened to a point."

"It was a split-second realisation of the extreme danger I was in. I felt very fearful, and so I did press the alarm. Mr Sams got hold of me and physically overcame me with his arm and started to wield the metal object," she said.

During his cross-examination, Sams, making fun of his false leg, claimed his arms could not possibly have been in the position Mrs Flack said. He added: "They couldn't have been there, they are permanently attached to my body, unfortunately, and can't be removed, unlike my leg."

The trial continues.



Probation officer Julia Flack said she ignored Sams's threat that she would die if she raised the alarm



Connections

- The Society of Saint Pius X asks us to make clear that its founder, the late Archbishop Lefebvre, did not ordain or consecrate Bishop Michael Cox (report, November 15).
- His Honour David Moylan was the resident (senior) judge at Norwich, not for 20 years the sole judge as stated in an obituary on January 30.
- The Parks Nursery School (report, February 5) is in Oakham, Leicestershire, not Margate.



Woman hurt in fatal car crash 'stable'

A PASSENGER seriously injured when a stolen car driven by a 15-year-old boy was involved in a fatal crash was "poorly but stable" in hospital yesterday.

Nicola Moreton, 19, of Walsall, West Midlands, suffered broken legs and neck and spinal injuries when the Austin Metro hit a wall in Walsall on Sunday morning, killing another passenger, Kim Birch, 17, of Bloxwich.

The driver, who lives locally, and two 14-year-old girls who had been back-seat passengers, were able to walk from the wreckage.

In another incident on Sunday, a car driven by a 17-year-old youth left the road in Penkridge, Staffordshire, seriously injuring a pedestrian, Stephen Haviland, of Penkridge, who sustained head, leg and chest injuries.

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Doctors to monitor mental health of dangerous inmates

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE thirty most dangerous offenders held in "prisons within prisons" in England and Wales are to undergo medical checks every three months amid fears for their mental health.

Doctors will examine the inmates from next month to check on their psychiatric condition, the Prison Service announced yesterday. The checks are to be introduced after a series of recommendations from Sir Donald Acheson, the former Chief Medical Officer, who carried out an inquiry for the Prison Service into the regime at the three special secure units.

The demand that the men have frequent medical examinations comes after concern about the claustrophobic conditions in the three special secure units (SSUs) at Full Sutton jail, York, Belmarsh prison, southeast London, and Whitemoor jail in March, Cambridgeshire.

Sir Donald carried out a review for the Prison Service and gave a warning of the dangers of many years spent in the units.

"There is very limited meaningful work and at least two of the units were somewhat cramped and claustrophobic



Acheson: gave warning of adverse effects

and there was a lack of social contact and incentives. It seemed that it was likely that over the course of years, a proportion of them would develop significant adverse effects to mental health," Sir Donald said.

He said prisoners held in the units had the same rights with regard to healthcare as any other person. "It is not part of the punishment that they shall be treated in such a way that their health inevitably suffers," he said on BBC Radio Four's *World at One*.

programme. In his report, Sir Donald also recommended an end to closed visits, where inmates are separated from their visitors by glass, but the Government rejected the proposal.

A Prison Service spokesman said the first quarterly check-up would take place next month. The Prison Service was also considering whether the regime for inmates could be improved by providing more opportunities for mental stimulation, physical exercise and work.

The special secure units were designed to hold offenders who represented a very high risk. Offenders never leave the unit, except to be transferred to another jail, and exercise yards are covered to prevent escape by helicopter.

Last month, when the trial of six men accused of escaping from Whitemoor prison collapsed, the judge said there was evidence that suggested a mental deterioration in the condition of five men who had been held in the special secure unit at the prison. The regimes for inmates of Britain's three SSUs were made tougher after the Woodcock report into the Whitemoor escape criticised lax conditions there.

Tony Pearson, the Prison Service's director of security, defended regimes in the three units. "We have a very difficult balance to keep in the Prison Service between security and treatment of individuals. I wouldn't want to support any view that said we're not bothered about people's mental health."

If a prisoner's mental health broke down or seriously declined, the offender could be transferred to one of the three top-security hospitals.

Penal reform groups are concerned over the mental health of the 24 prisoners who have been told they will spend the rest of their lives in jail. The groups believe the prisoners' health could deteriorate because they have been deprived of hope of release.

Letters, page 17
Law, page 33

Floating jails needed in weeks, says Tilt

PRISONERS will have to be housed in police cells unless plans for a floating jail are approved, Richard Tilt, the Director-General of the Prison Service, said yesterday.

The service is facing an overcrowding crisis made worse by opposition from local communities to emergency plans to convert a disused airbase and a former holiday camp into a prison.

Mr Tilt told the service's annual conference in Manchester that the population of the 135 jails in England and Wales was likely to be about 60,000 by March, exceeding their total capacity.

A proposal to convert Mid-

dleton Towers, a former holiday camp near Heysham, Lancashire, has been delayed because the Prison Service has not reached agreement with the Health and Safety Executive over evacuation procedures in the event of an emergency at the station.

Without the 500 places that would be made available by mooring the prison ship *Resolution* in Portland Harbour, Dorset, the use of hugely expensive police cells looked unavoidable by the middle of next month, Mr Tilt said.

Police cells cost the service up to £300 a night in charges levied by police authorities: up to seven times the cost of keeping prisoners in jail.



Mrs Beeton, symbol of Victorian domesticity, whose letters, below, are to be sold



Letters reveal the simmering passions of Mrs Beeton

BY GLEN OWEN

MRS BEETON, the celebrated Victorian cook and symbol of homely virtues, hid a more passionate side from her culinary followers, according to love letters released yesterday.

Isabella Beeton became a role model for generations of housewives with her *Book of Household Management*. Published in 1861, it sets out the essentials of cookery and housekeeping, to reflect her belief "that there is no more fruitful source of family discontent than a housewife's badly cooked dinners and untidy ways".

She has since become the symbol for a lost age of contented domesticity, sentimentally assumed to be plump, grey-haired and matronly. But the reality is of a young woman, the eldest of 21 children, who was married at 20, had written her "bible" by the age of 26 and was dead at 29.

Now Mrs Beeton's love life is under the spotlight. In April, Sotheby's will auction love letters exchanged with her fiancé, Samuel Beeton, an author and publisher, in the months before they married in 1856.

The letters mix the romantic with the practical. In a note penned in June 1856, Isabella discusses the plans for furnishing the marital home before expressing her eagerness to see her husband-to-be. "You cannot imagine how I have missed you, and have been wishing all day that I were a bird that I might fly away and be at rest with you, my own precious one."

On another occasion, she confided about the marriage, pleading that "in a very short time you have the entire management of me and I can assure you you will find in me a most docile and willing pupil". Her fondness would mix with formality, writing that "it seems such an age since I have spoken with you, and I can assure you I have longed for a quiet time when

with my old man, my darling, darling venerable."

Her sterner side emerges when her future husband says he plans to visit Germany shortly after the wedding. "It would be wrong and very unkind of you to go away so soon after... After a man marries he is supposed to look first to his better or worse half as the case may be."

Samuel Beeton's responses were deeply affectionate. "I wish at this moment I could breathe into your ears, closely and caressingly," he writes, expressing his trust "that bright sunny days are in store for you with your devoted Swallow".

After her marriage, the new Mrs Beeton began contributing articles to the hugely successful *Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine*, which had been launched by her husband.

In 1859 she started writing her guide to household management as a supplement. It sprang from the marriage preparations. She told her many sisters that she felt unprepared: "Why has no one written a book—a good book for brides? A book to help them manage a household and learn all the things they simply must know if they are to succeed in married life." The 24 parts of *Beeton's Book of Household Management* were eventually published in one volume. Today it still sells more than 50,000 copies a year.

The couple's continued life in Finner, Middlesex, lasted only a few years until Mrs Beeton's death in 1865 from a fever after the birth of their fourth child. In a letter written to a friend shortly afterwards, Mr Beeton refers to "the dreadful grief that well nigh overpowers me, and renders me unable to move or stir".

There are more love letters in the sale than two of Mr Beeton's letters to friends. They are expected to fetch up to £5,000.

Seatbelts ruling is criticised

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

MINIBUSES and coaches that carry schoolchildren must be fitted with seatbelts under legislation that came into force yesterday, but pupils will not be forced to wear them. The rules, announced by the Government in 1995 after a spate of minibus and coach accidents, apply to any vehicle carrying three or more children aged between three and sixteen, except buses.

John Howard, of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, said that unless wearing belts was a legal requirement, children would ignore them because of peer pressure not to appear "wimps". Mr Howard also claimed local authorities could reclassify coaches as buses by having speed limiters fitted.

John Bows, the Road Safety Minister, said local authorities had received extra money to fit the belts, so cutting corners would be "wholly unjustified". Pressure to wear them should come from parents and teachers, and children's own safety awareness.

NHS in talks with private sector to protect pay beds

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

LEADERS of 400 NHS trusts are seeking a link-up with a private health insurer to defend NHS pay beds against aggressive competition. The move by the NHS Trust Federation is designed to protect the NHS's share of the lucrative private healthcare market, which is coming under attack from private hospitals and threatens to remove millions of pounds of NHS income.

The deal under negotiation is believed to involve a single private health insurance company, thought to be Norwich Union Healthcare, marketing NHS pay beds nationally. The federation has about 300 trusts with pay beds. The move could give the insurer access to patient records which could be used for mailshots to local patients offering special deals.

Occupancy of private hospitals is as low as 50 per cent and some face closure. The NHS has been beating the private sector at its own game, increasing its market share

since 1988 from 11 per cent to 16.5 per cent, and is the largest provider of private beds.

Labour said that such a deal would introduce a two-tier service. Tessa Jowell, Shadow Health Minister, said that if it went ahead it would represent an "enormous stride down the path of privatisation".

Marco Cereste, chairman of the federation, said NHS managers were alarmed at moves by the big private health insurers to establish "preferred provider" networks of hospitals to which their patients would be sent. BUPA has announced it was excluding NHS hospitals from its preferred list and PPP and Norwich Union have issued their own lists.

Mr Cereste, writing in *Parliamentary Review*, says the NHS could lose 70 per cent of its pay-bed income of £220 million a year as a result of the moves, and must react quickly to defend it. "A partnership with a private health insurer is something which could benefit all concerned. This would not

mean a private NHS. Trusts would simply be working with an insurance company prepared to promote NHS services to its customers."

Yesterday, Mr Cereste said that the arrangement would not preclude other insurers using NHS pay beds. The Government said last year the NHS should not sign itself with a single insurer. The federation is seeking a way round this restriction.

Labour said that a national scheme to promote NHS pay beds would create a parallel insurance-based service leaving the NHS as a safety net which would undermine its founding principle as a universal service available on the basis of need.

Tim Baker, chief executive of Norwich Union Healthcare, confirmed that negotiations were underway with the federation. He said: "NHS pay beds units are cheaper, more cost-effective and run at higher occupancy levels and they have a lot of back-up facilities on site."

Whisky giants challenge Manx spirit

BY DANIEL MCGROARY

A JUDGE was yesterday invited to drink as much whisky as he wished while deciding whether a colourless spirit distilled on the Isle of Man could be sold as "whisky".

Two of the world's biggest drinks firms are taking legal action against a village distillery, run by one employee and a handful of volunteers, which produces "Manx whisky", mainly for export.

The Glen Kella Distillery argues that nobody could mistake its product for the traditional apple, no matter how much they might consume, because it is sold in clear bottles.

The rival parties lined up their brands at the High Court yesterday. Simon Thorley, QC, representing United Distillers, Allied Domecq and the Scotch Whisky Association, told the judge: "We have no objection

to your lordship drinking as much whisky as you wish."

He quickly added that he trusted that Mr Justice Rance would "decide on the evidence rather than your own personal enjoyment".

The judge smiled and glanced at the bottles displayed before him, replying: "I suppose you will check the levels each morning."

The rivals then began considering the exceedingly dry detail of the science of distillation, swapping charts of alcoholic strengths and debating lengthy legal precedents. Only the courtroom water bottles were emptied.

Mr Thorley said: "The fundamental question is what is whisky?" All traditionalists would appreciate, he said, that whisky had to be made by maturing a spirit distilled from fermented cereal and allowing it to mature for at



Glen Kella: distilled again to remove colour

least three years in oak casks, a process which gave it its colour and flavour.

Glen Kella, based in the village of Sulby, imports Scotch whisky and puts it through an extra distillation process to remove the brown colour. This process, Mr Thorley said, disqualified it from being called "whisky".

Scotch whisky accounts for 96 per cent of all whisky sold. Only 30,000 bottles of the colourless spirit called Manx whisky—spelt with the Irish "c"—are produced each year.

The plaintiffs make some of Britain's best-known brands, including Johnnie Walker, Bells and Teachers. The Scotch Whisky Association is funded by the industry.

Glen Kella, whose unpaid managing director, Andrew Dixon, is also a sheep farmer and a microbiologist, will argue that its product complies with Isle of Man regulations covering whisky and cannot be mistaken for Scotch. The case is expected to last ten days.

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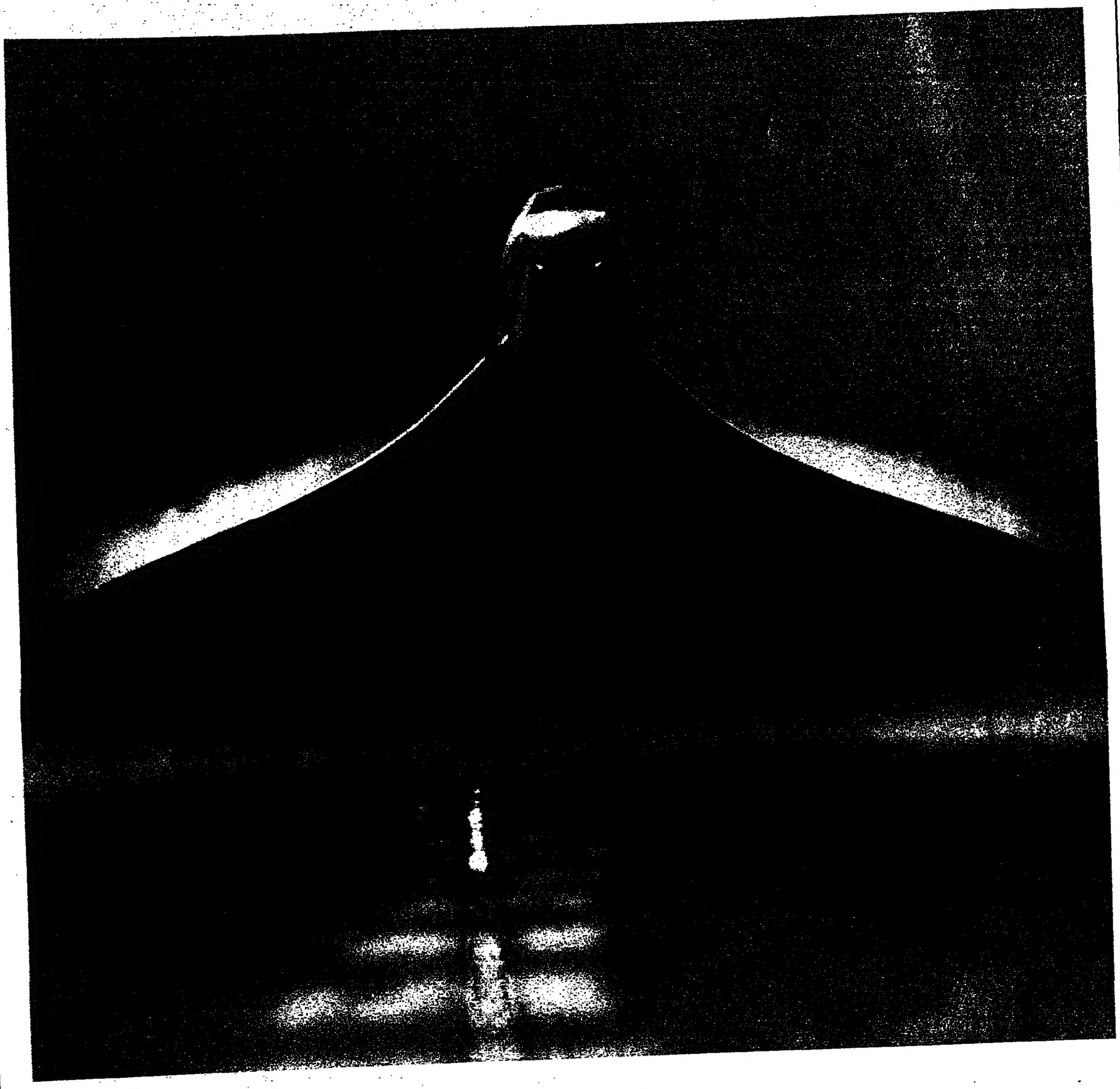
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Keeper in match-fix trial told the police 'rubbish'

By A STAFF REPORTER

A FORMER Wimbledon goalkeeper accused of being part of a match-fixing plot admitted yesterday that when he was arrested, he told police "absolute rubbish". Hans Segers said he was afraid the Football Association would find out that he had been forecasting the results of matches for people betting on them, which was against the rules.

Dutch-born Mr Segers, 35, was giving evidence at Winchester Crown Court, where he, the former Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, 29, the former Aston Villa and Wimbledon striker John Fashanu, 34, and a Malaysian businessman, Heng Suan Lim, 31, deny conspiring to give and accept corrupt payments.

Mr Segers said he denied to police that he knew Mr Lim, as he would have had to say that he was forecasting matches for him. He told his counsel, Desmond de Silva, QC, that he had first met Mr Lim in Mr Fashanu's office in 1993 and had agreed to do forecasts on Dutch matches. Mr Lim had offered him £1,000 a week but Mr Fashanu had negotiated it up to £1,500. He said he mainly forecast Dutch matches but if Mr Lim needed information on English teams he would help him.

Mr de Silva asked him: "Have you ever thrown a game of football in your life?" The goalkeeper replied: "Never." Asked if he had ever received money or indeed the offer of money for throwing a game, he said: "No, never."

Mr de Silva said Mr Segers had told police he had an account in Switzerland, but that the money that went into it came from years of stealing expensive cars. "It was absolute rubbish," Mr Segers, of Fleet, Hampshire, said.

He agreed that another lie he told police was that he hardly ever spoke to Mr Fashanu. Mr de Silva asked: "In your domestic life, to coin a phrase, did you always play at home?" Mr Segers replied: "I played a few away matches."

When he wanted Mr Fashanu to cover for him, the arrangement would be made on the telephone. He said that he had done Mr Fashanu "quite a few" favours.

The case continues.

Segers denied he had ever thrown a match



The Princess holds an Angolan child in the *Heart of the Matter* film she scripted; some of the sights in war-torn Angola were very traumatic for a mother, she says

How landmine critics brought Princess close to tears

By EMMA WILKINS

DIANA, Princess of Wales, has repeated her call for a worldwide ban on landmines while admitting that criticism of her stance made her want to cry.

The Princess, who spoke out against the weapons during her recent visit to Angola, was attacked

as a "loose cannon" by a junior Defence Minister because her support for a total ban appeared to contradict government policy. During her visit last month, the Princess dismissed the criticism as "a distraction" but on a documentary to be shown on BBC1 tonight, the Princess reveals the extent of her distress. She appears bewildered

when confronted by a reporter in Angola who asks for her reaction to the MP's attack. "Who says I am a loose cannon? I'm only trying to highlight a problem that's going on around the world. I am ready to burst into tears now," she says. It is the first time that the Princess, who wore a microphone throughout her three-day visit, has

made a documentary film. She wrote her own script and recorded a commentary last week at a BBC studio in London. The Princess was moved to tears after visiting a seven-year-old girl in hospital whose intestines were blown out in a landmine explosion. "It has been very sad, what I saw. That was very traumatic as a

mother to witness," she says. At other times in the 30-minute *Heart of the Matter* film, she is seen being briefed by Red Cross officials, denoting a mine and talking to aid workers. The Princess calls for a total ban on landmines. Anne Revell, editor of the programme, said she gave the Princess 11 out of 10 for professionalism.

Britons pin hopes on shuttle flight to space telescope

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THIS space shuttle *Discovery* lifts off today with the hopes of British scientists riding on the success of a potentially calamitous mission to upgrade the Hubble space telescope.

The scientists, who are heavily involved in the next phase of observations from the telescope, will watch anxiously as the astronauts attempt to replace two instruments and service other equipment. After a bad start, the telescope has been working flawlessly since December 1993, when it was last visited by a shuttle crew.

That time, they could only make things better; this time they could make them much worse. The greatest danger is that they could nudge and break the slender links holding the solar arrays to the body of the telescope, leaving it without power.

The 1993 trip corrected the telescope's flawed mirror, since when it has been producing brilliant images and making important discoveries. "We could go up there and screw it up," Gregory Harbaugh, one of the four astronauts, said.

"We sure don't want to do that. Our going-in position is 'above all else, do no harm'."

The struts linking the solar panels to the telescope have become fragile and twisted. There is no plan to replace these panels before 1999, but the mission will involve moving a robot arm to within a few inches of them.

A single touch could be enough to break them off, so the astronauts will be carrying specially designed splints to fix them should this happen. If the solar panels themselves are damaged, there are no spares on board to replace them — and, without them, the telescope will be rendered useless.

The instruments which are being replaced are the size of a postbox. They will give way to new equipment which is designed to do a different job. The Near Infra-red Camera and Multi-Object Spectrometer (NICMOS) is designed to provide sharply focussed views of the most distant, earliest regions of the universe, views of stars that may be circled by Earth-like planets, and pictures of the dust-obscured centre of the Milky Way.

The second new instrument is the Space Telescope Imaging Spectrograph (STIS), de-

signed to extend the telescope's capabilities by advances in sensor and computer technology.

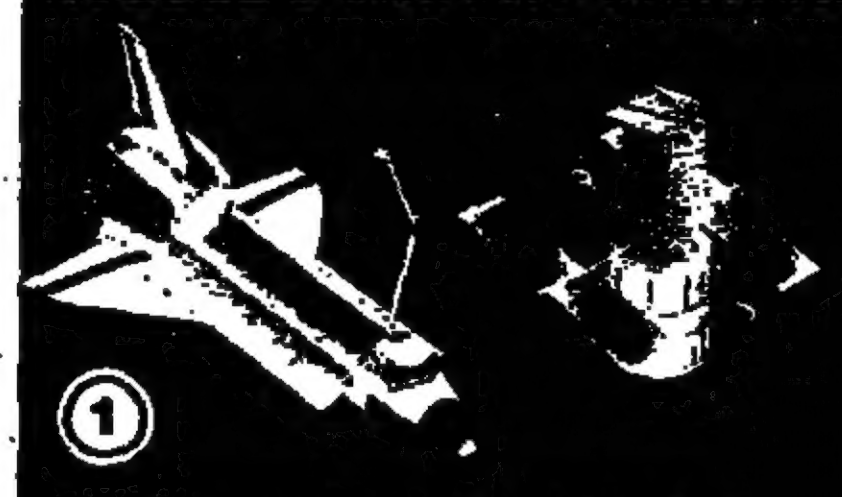
Many British astronomers hope to carry out experiments with the new instruments. Professor John Peacock of the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh will use NICMOS to look at two of the oldest known galaxies in the universe, aiming to prove that some galaxies formed very soon after the Big Bang.

Max Pettini of the Royal Greenwich Observatory and David Bowen of the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh will be using STIS to estimate the mass of the universe by measuring precisely how much deuterium — a form of hydrogen — it contains. Since deuterium was created only in the Big Bang, the amount is related to the total amount of mass in the universe.

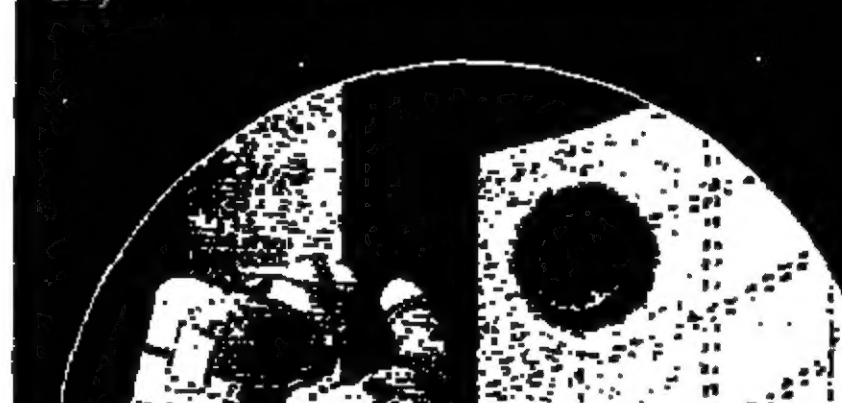
The astronauts will also replace an electronics package in the solar arrays, fit a new tape recorder and put new covers on the magnetometers on top of the telescope. Four spacewalks will be needed to complete the mission.

The astronauts, using low-power jets, will also try to lift

HUBBLE'S SECOND SERVICE



1 Astronauts on *Discovery* — the craft that first put Hubble into orbit in April 1990 — use the robot arm to catch the telescope and power it into the cargo bay.



2 Solar panels cannot be rolled up out of the way because the rods that support them are twisted and could break. The astronauts will manoeuvre close but avoid touching the delicate panels.

3 During space walks panels on Hubble's side will be opened and scientific instruments removed and replaced by new ones.

MISSION TIMETABLE

- First space walk will install STIS and NICMOS, two new astronomical instruments.
- The next day the fine guidance sensor will be replaced in a five-hour space walk.
- Discovery*'s thrusters will then raise the shuttle's orbit a few miles before a data unit and a new recorder are installed on the third space walk.
- Final space walk will replace solar system control cable and replace a damaged cover on a magnetometer, used to help orientate the telescope.

Missing anorexic girl is found safe

A teenage girl who went missing from the hospital where she was being treated for anorexia was reunited with her parents yesterday. Jackie Hooker, 16, had been recognised by two newsmen in Brixton, south London. She had booked into a hotel in the area and was taken in a police car to be reunited with her family. She had gone missing from Heatherwood Hospital, Ascot, Berkshire, on Saturday morning. Her treatment, which had been informal, will now be compulsory.

Just the ticket

The first Routemaster, prototype for the classic red London bus, returns to service today between Marylebone and Crystal Palace, south London, where it ran from 1956 to 1959, in a London Transport Museum scheme celebrating double-deckers in the capital.

Protest vote

A man born without arms or legs after his mother took thalidomide is to be a candidate in the Wirral South by-election for the Thelwellside Action Group (UK) Party. Freddie Astbury, 37, aims to raise awareness of the hardship suffered by victims.

Pulp magazine

Jarvis Cocker, singer with the pop group Pulp, paid £2,700 for a complete bound set of 120 copies of the woman's magazine *Now* at Bonham's in London. The design and content of the magazine, which folded in 1925, epitomised the mood of the Sixties.

Wife sentenced

A former prison nurse has been given a one-month suspended sentence by Peterborough Crown Court after helping a man convicted of manslaughter to abscond. Sylvana Nottingham, 36, of Peterborough, and Andrew Osborne have since married.

Toilet sit-in

Residents in Preston, East Yorkshire, are staging a sit-in to save public toilets threatened with demolition to make way for housing. Charles Little, speaking from a cubicle during his shift, said: "It's the only public toilets between here and the coast."

Widower's gift

William Bray, 84, a widower from Hayle, Cornwall, has given his £50,000 savings towards building a hospice. Mr Bray, who retired seven years ago, said: "I have never had an ache or pain in my life but I wanted my money to go to a charity in my local area."

Fishermen accuse Labour of breaking quota-hopping pledge

By POLLY NEWTON
POLITICAL REPORTER

FISHERMEN accused Labour of making worthless promises after the party signalled yesterday that it would not match Tory tactics to bring an end to quota-hopping.

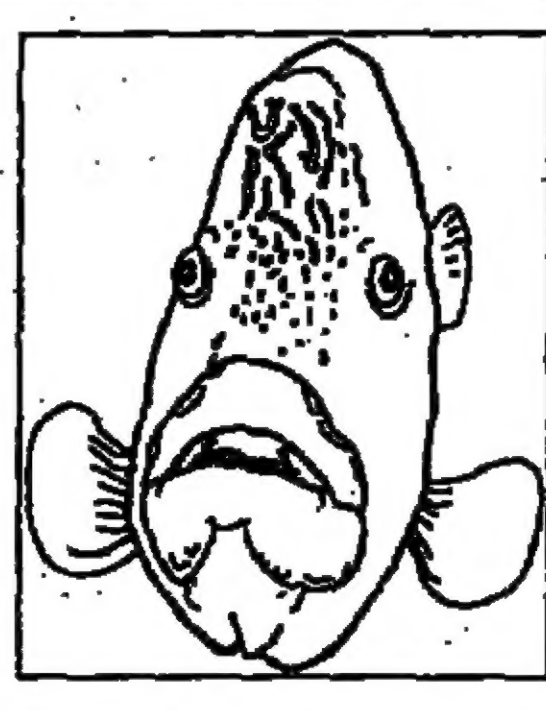
Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, has told friends he would not block a new European treaty purely on the issue of quota-hopping, the practice whereby foreign-owned trawlers register as British in order to take a share of Britain's fish quota.

The move comes despite recent indications from the Labour front bench that the party planned to follow the Conservatives' tough line on quota-hopping by refusing to sign any treaty that did not ban the practice.

Fishermen's representatives are seeking an urgent meeting with Mr Cook and Tony Blair. Mike Townsend, chairman of the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, said yesterday: "We are very concerned. We want to seek a commitment from Labour that they are prepared to do whatever is necessary."

Government ministers have said that they would use the British veto at the conclusion

A curious fish called the bumphead wrasse, right, is being killed in increasing numbers for the Chinese food trade, and conservationists say this is damaging the last coral reefs (Nick Nuttall writes). Researchers launching the International Year of the Reef in London said yesterday that the bumphead wrasse was vital to keep reefs free from crown-of-thorns starfish, which eat the coral. But the bumphead, whose large lips are considered an aphrodisiac, said to sell for up to £200 a dish, has been severely overfished. Many fishermen use cyanide to drug the fish and this kills many other species and damages large areas of coral. Snorkellers and



divers have also been asked to avoid damaging reefs. Dr Elizabeth Wood, coral reef conservation officer for the Marine Conservation Society, said yesterday: "Several studies have shown that about 10 per cent of corals are damaged by poor diving practices at popular sites."

of the inter-governmental conference, which is formulating the new treaty, if quota-hopping were not banned.

Mr Cook has made clear that he would not make such a commitment. A Labour source said that the party believed the Tories were "posturing" and

would not be prepared to use the veto. "I don't think we would go as far as to say we would veto the IGC on that sole issue... It may be that there is a dark treaty that contains many things of advantage to Britain, and we are therefore reluctant

to commit ourselves to vetoing such a treaty on one single issue," the source said.

During the annual Commons debate on fisheries policy last December, Gavin Strang, Shadow Agriculture Minister, said Labour would give a high priority to quota-hopping and said there was "no question" that it could continue on the current scale.

He told MPs: "If the Labour Party comes to power, it will be before the completion of the IGC... Clearly, an incoming Labour government could — I put it no stronger than that — pick up the hand."

Jim Portus, chief executive of the South West Fish Producers Organisation, said yesterday that he had been assured by Mr Strang that a Labour government would use the veto to end quota-hopping. "The promises that the fishing industry got from the Labour Party immediately prior to the fisheries debate are worth nothing," Mr Portus said.

About 160 fishing vessels are registered as British but are owned, crewed and operated elsewhere. They represent only 2 per cent of the British fleet, but catch about 20 per cent of the fish allocated to Britain under the quota system.

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Whitewater inquiry seizes on story of Clinton affair

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

CLAIMS that Bill Clinton once had a close personal relationship with Susan McDougal — the jailed former wife of Jim McDougal, the Clintons' partner in Whitewater — are being investigated by Kenneth Starr, the special Whitewater prosecutor. *The New Yorker* magazine reports this week.

In a dramatic reversal of his previous testimony, Mr McDougal is also said to have told prosecutors that Mr Clinton was present at a meeting in 1986 where an illegal loan of \$300,000 from the Small Business Administration to Mrs McDougal was discussed.

Mr McDougal, who owned Madison Guaranty, the bank at the heart of the Whitewater affair, claimed he learnt of the alleged affair in 1982, when his wife had just returned from a trip to Europe and he intercepted a call between the couple when he tried to call her at home.

"How should I say this? They were intimate," the former banker told *The New Yorker*. "This may be difficult to understand, but I didn't really care. Our relationship had evolved... we had become more business partners, companions."

Interviewed in prison, Mrs McDougal said her former husband had deliberately concocted the story to commute the 84-year sentence he faces

after he was convicted on 15 charges last year. "He's lying," she said. "I'm a small-town, country girl, a Southern Baptist. I wouldn't do it... Jim wanted me to have an affair with Clinton. The truth is he said he would not have sex with me again... but he did want me to have sex with other people."

Under normal circumstances, the alleged relationship between Mr Clinton and Mrs McDougal would be irrelevant. America has long believed that Mr Clinton was a philanderer during his Arkansas days and the sexual harassment suit brought by Paula Jones, a former state employee who claims he asked her to perform oral sex, has merely confirmed that belief.

But prosecutors believe that any close relationship between Mr Clinton and Mrs McDougal could explain the allegation by David Hale, an Arkansas banker, that the then Governor pressed him to solicit the \$300,000 from the Small Business Administration. On his own, Mr McDougal is not seen as a credible witness. He has changed his story too often. He now says he failed five lie-detector tests at the start of the inquiry, when he was trying to protect Mr Clinton by saying the President had no involvement in the loan.

There is no doubt, however, that Mr Starr is taking the matter seriously. Last week he obtained a delay in sentencing on the basis that Mr McDougal was offering "new and important" information.

But Pat Harris, Mrs McDougal's partner since she separated from her husband, said he did not believe the two were having an affair. But, he said, they were always flirting.

The whole sexual atmosphere in that place was something that I didn't want her around. And, yes, I was jealous of Bill Clinton," said Mr Harris.

Mrs McDougal is currently serving an 18-month sentence in a jail outside Los Angeles for civil contempt charges. She had flatly refused last year to answer questions before the grand jury in Little Rock about whether Mr Clinton gave truthful testimony at the Whitewater trial of herself, her former husband and Jim Guy Tucker, the President's successor as Governor.



A dancer performs at the Sambadrome during the opening of this year's carnival in Rio de Janeiro. Spectacular as the show is — it earns organisers more than £600 million — the city's inhabitants try to give it a miss to avoid the arrival of 300,000 tourists (Gabriella Gammis writes). "It used to be a week when people let all their inhibitions go and danced to

Rio bodies take corporate turn

samba on the streets non-stop. I now prefer to get out of town," said Pedro Murilo, a marketing executive. The best seats at the Sambadrome are taken by multinational companies who sponsor the "show". The cartoons — the locals — have also lost out

to tourists in the parade itself. Tour packages, which include a costume and a part in the samba school parade, have sold like hot cakes on the Internet. For about £150, Internet surfers choose from a series of glittering costumes, and type in their

shoesize. "On arrival you get your costume and get given a time to turn up and take part," said Sarah Morgan, 29, a public relations manager, from London. She is part of a group of 20 Britons who will dress up as mermaids and fishermen to take part in the Beija Flor samba school parade, one of a dozen schools who compete over four days.



Bill Clinton's reputation for being a philanderer as viewed by the Toronto Star cartoonist, Andy.

Stallone crowned king of stinkers

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

SYLVESTER STALLONE has blazed his way onto the least envied pedestal in Hollywood by winning an unmatched thirteenth consecutive nomination for the Worst Actor prize in this year's Golden Raspberry awards.

If proof were needed that actions speak louder than words, Stallone provided it yet again in *Daylight*, according to the 475 film-makers, journalists and fans who vote on the annual antidote to the Oscars. His role as the unwitting hero of a New York road tunnel disaster has made the "Balboa Bono", as the Golden Raspberry Foundation calls

Stallone in honour of his Oscar-winning performance as Rocky Balboa, the "all-time Razzie champion".

Daylight flopped at the American box office, earning back less than half its budget, but in a year described by the foundation's spokesman as "wall to wall with cinematic stinkers" it was squeezed off the list of Worst Picture nominees.

These included *Barb Wire*, Pamela Anderson Lee's big-screen debut, the *Island of Dr Moreau*, featuring Marlon Brando, and *Striptease*, with Demi Moore.

Brando and Moore were also nominated for their individual performances, but Anderson, the former *Baywatch* star, trumped them both with a nomination for her leading role as a leather-clad nightclub owner, and a separate one for her breasts as Worst Screen Couple.

Striptease, which confirmed producers' fears that America's appetite for screen flesh is finite, leads the pack, or pommel, with six Raspberry nominations in all, including one for "Worst Original Song".

This year's Oscar nominations are due to be announced today.



Stallone film flopped

Further jail term for Hollywood Madam

FROM REUTERS IN LOS ANGELES

REPUTED Hollywood Madam Heidi Fleiss pleaded guilty in a plea bargain yesterday to one count of attempted pandering and was sentenced by the court to 18 months in prison.

In return for the guilty plea made by Fleiss, the state dropped two other felony pandering charges and the judge ordered that her prison term run concurrently with her 37-month federal sentence for tax evasion handed down at an earlier hearing.

Fleiss, who ran a call-girl ring catering to the rich and famous in Hollywood, was sentenced last month in federal

court to 37 months for the tax evasion and money-laundering associated with the prostitution racket.

In 1995 she had been found guilty in state court of pandering — procuring women for prostitution — but that conviction was overturned for jury misconduct.

The judge then ordered a retrial.

Since her federal conviction, lawyers for Fleiss had been negotiating with prosecutors to drop the state retrial.

As a result of the plea-bargain, the time Fleiss serves in federal prison will count as time served in state prison.

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Bruno Mégret emerges as standard-bearer of French Far Right

Le Pen put in shade by town hall triumph

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

BRUNO MEGRET, the deputy leader of the National Front, was being tipped as the future face of the French far right yesterday after his wife stormed to victory in municipal elections in southern France.

Catherine Mégret, who stood in for her husband after he was disqualified for campaign overspending, won 52.5 per cent of the vote in the town of Vitrolles on Sunday, in a mayoral election that gave the Front control over a fourth city hall and sent tremors through the political establishment.

Mégret has left no doubt that he, rather than his wife, will be responsible for running Vitrolles, and the successful Front campaign has confirmed his position as the man most likely to succeed the veteran party leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen.

At the age of 69, M Le Pen has given no hint that he intends to step down as Front supremo, while M Mégret has been equally careful to avoid suggestions that he is anything but utterly loyal to the leader of the anti-immigration party. But in remarks made immediately after Sunday's election, M Le Pen was quick, perhaps too quick, to assert

there was no number two in his party.

With his own personal power base established in Vitrolles, M Mégret, 47, is uniquely positioned to take over the reins of the Front if and when M Le Pen relinquishes control, or loses it.

For France's mainstream parties, that is a deeply troubling prospect. M Le Pen, a one-eyed former soldier with a taste for belligerent rhetoric, often loses as many votes as he gains with his overt xenophobia. M Mégret is far more subtle and, many say, sinister.

Since defecting from the Gaullist camp to the far right in 1981, M Mégret has steadily built up a reputation as the party's main strategist and ideologue. While M Le Pen has gained headlines by declaring his belief in "the inequality of the races", M Mégret has honed and modernised the anti-immigration and anti-European message.

Educated at one of France's top universities, M Mégret is an intelligent technocrat in the established French bourgeois tradition, but one whose views are, according to observers, even more extreme than those of M Le Pen.

While the party's longtime



Bruno Mégret with his wife Catherine in Vitrolles, the fourth southern French town to fall to the Far Right

leader inspires the adoration of neo-Nazis and hardened right-wingers who would vote for the Front anyway, M Mégret has aimed to bring younger, more sophisticated supporters to the party banner with an emphasis on "economic dislocation", the "march of multiculturalism" and the need to secure traditional French rights and beliefs.

It is these voters, many of

whom would deny being racist and believe it, who may prove crucial in next year's legislative elections. But M Mégret runs the risk of alienating hard-core Le Pen supporters by his more middle-class and metropolitan image. An extremist in a very different mould from his leader, it is hard to imagine this diminutive, buck-toothed "thinker" singing military songs or chal-

lenging rival politicians to fistfights.

Yet M Mégret insists he is no soulless political machine. "I am not the [Alain] Juppé [the Prime Minister] of the National Front," he said. This week he is expected to capitalise on Sunday's victory by announcing he intends to stand in Vitrolles as a candidate for the National Assem-

bly. He has repeatedly maintained that his relationship with M Le Pen is that of a dutiful son to an adored father. "I have never made the mistake of disputing his pre-eminence," he said recently. That was before he became de facto Mayor of Vitrolles, and the second most prominent right-winger in France.

Leading article, page 17

Priebke for military court trial

FROM REUTERS IN ROME

ITALY'S highest court ruled yesterday that Erich Priebke, the former SS captain, should be retried for war crimes in a military court.

Priebke, 83, is accused of complicity in multiple murder for his role in the SS massacre of 335 men and boys at the Ardeatine Caves near Rome on March 24, 1944. Seventy-five of the victims were Jews. Priebke admits shooting two victims and crossing names off a list, but said that he had to follow orders or be killed himself.

At his first trial, which ended on August 1, a military court found Priebke guilty but ordered him freed, citing extenuating circumstances which triggered an expired statute of limitations. He was rearrested that night after relatives of the massacre's victims laid siege to the courthouse and is still being held in a military prison.

The Court of Cassation will also decide jurisdiction for Karl Hass, Priebke's co-defendant and a former SS major. Hass, 84, admitted a role in the massacre.

Poll win by ex-Yeltsin aide threatens tide of scandal

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

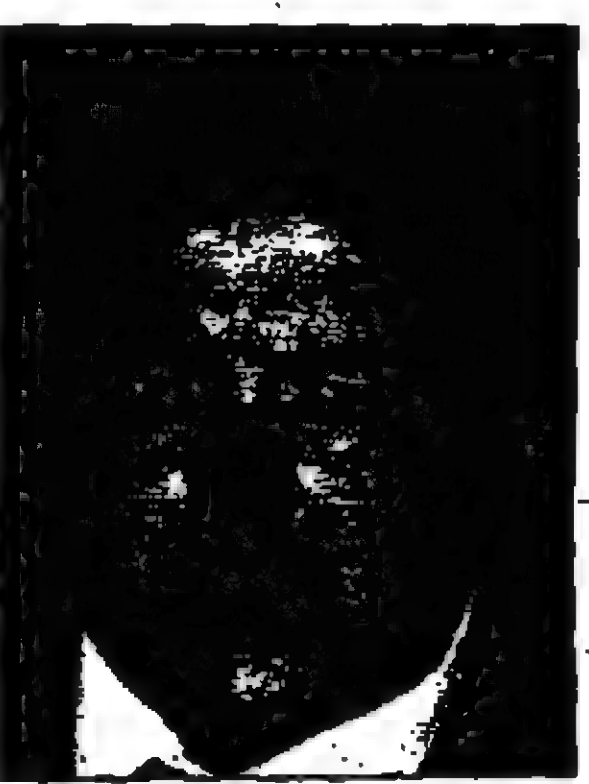
THE Kremlin yesterday received a "slap in the face" from Russian voters after President Yeltsin's disgraced former bodyguard won a by-election.

In a result with potentially serious repercussions for the leadership in Moscow, General Aleksandr Korzhakov, the hardline former KGB officer, made a spectacular return to politics when he won the parliamentary constituency of Tula, an impoverished arms-making city south of Moscow.

The victory, in a crowded field of candidates, including Anatoli Karpov, the chess champion, was a vindication of General Korzhakov's attempt to fight his way back into politics after his dismissal last June in a Kremlin power struggle.

While nobody in Moscow is expecting the former KGB officer to display any great parliamentary skills among the 450 deputies, he could nevertheless cause serious problems for the Kremlin.

During his 11 years as Mr Yeltsin's bodyguard, tennis partner, drinking buddy and



Korzhakov: archive of confidential material

closest adviser, the burly secret policeman had unrivalled influence in the Kremlin, where his sinister reputation won him the title "grey cardinal".

At the height of his power he ran a small private army of special forces troops and intelligence officers, and amassed a wealth of confidential information about every leading figure in the Moscow hierarchy. His archive of kompromat (compromising material) was reportedly held in a Swiss safety deposit box because General Korzhakov feared re-

taliation if he went public. Now that he is a member of the Duma, the lower house, he is immune from prosecution and free to retaliate, in particular against his arch-rival, Anatoli Chubais, the head of the presidential administration and the architect of his fall from grace.

Senior members of the weekly current affairs programme *Izvestia*, predicted at the weekend that a win by the ousted general would amount to a "slap in the face for the authorities".

The compromising materials with which he has so far only threatened everybody will probably start to be published, Kiselev said.

In addition to his threat to expose corruption at the highest levels of the Government, General Korzhakov could also play a pivotal role in assisting Aleksandr Lebed, the former army officer with presidential ambitions.

General Lebed, whose resignation from parliament caused the Tula by-election, initially endorsed General Korzhakov's candidacy. The latter, who still has powerful allies, may return the favour and back General Lebed.

Top Spanish judge shot dead by Eta outside his home

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

A SENIOR judge of the Spanish Supreme Court, Rafael Martínez, was shot dead yesterday by the Basque separatist group Eta. Judge Martínez, 69, was shot by two Eta gunmen in the Retiro district. He was the highest-ranking serving judicial figure killed during Eta's 30-year campaign.

Earlier Eta had detonated a car bomb in Granada, killing a civilian air force worker. At least eight others were injured in the early-morning blast, set off by remote control, one seriously.

In a separate incident, Eugenio Aramburu-Landa, an executive member of Herri Batasuna, Eta's political wing, was found hanged at his farmhouse in Mallabia in the Basque country. He is believed to have committed suicide. Señor Aramburu was due to appear before the Supreme Court yesterday to answer criminal charges of inciting violence and advocating terrorism.

Judge Martínez, who had

completed ten years on the Supreme Court yesterday, is thought to have been targeted because of his membership of the tribunal. The *Spain* of Basque radicals last week by imprisoning five members of Herri Batasuna's leadership for failing to appear before the court on charges similar to those facing Señor Aramburu. Judge Martínez's death brings to four the total of judges killed by Eta over the last year.

The Granada blast killed Domingo Puente Marin, a barber, who worked at the Armilla air base. Jaime Mayor Oreja, the Interior Minister, cut short an official trip to Jerusalem to visit the scene of the blast. King Juan Carlos described the killings as "blind and sterile violence".

Yesterday's killings come in the wake of the murder last month of an army colonel, shot by a woman Eta guerrilla. This month a salesman at a bicycle shop in San Sebastián was shot dead, apparently for working with anti-terrorist intelligence officers.

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Three die as street battles intensify in Albanian port

By Richard Owen and Our Foreign Staff

THE death toll in anti-government riots in the Albanian port of Vlore rose to three yesterday as the opposition accused the police of opening fire on protesters. One man died of bullet wounds.

Hundreds were injured in clashes on the sixth successive day of demonstrations in Vlore, 60 miles south of Tirana, the capital. One man, 48, died on Sunday after he was kicked on the ground in rioting and taken to hospital covered in blood. Police said he had died of a heart attack.

A second man, 51, was also reported to have died of a heart attack yesterday. But hospital sources said the third victim, a man of 30, had bullet wounds "from shoulder to spine" and had died after an emergency operation and blood transfusions.

The Vlore disturbances are the latest in a month-long eruption of angry protests across the country over savings lost in failed pyramid investment schemes. In the centre of Vlore, thousands of demonstrators threw stones and furniture at riot police, who retreated to nearby rooftops.

Rumours circulated that dozens of men had been arrested late on Sunday. Although there was no official confirmation, the enraged crowd moved on the police station. From the rooftops, police hurled lumps of concrete down on protesters below, although without appearing to hit their target. Demonstrators sent back a fresh hail of stones.

A lone water cannon made a doctored sortie to disperse the crowds. It soon ran out of water and retreated, its reinforced windscreen smashed by stones. Gunfire rattled from the direction of the police station and cars, coloured flags flying from their windows, sped out of the area to carry the wounded to hospital. With police pinned down inside the building and the stream of projectiles slowing down, parents brought small children out on to streets to survey the damage and jeer at police who were still waiting on the surrounding hills.

"They might come down again but we're ready for them," said Nikolla, a protester. "We don't want war, we just want our money back. If they push us, we'll fight to the end. We have nothing left to lose."

In one incident, about 20 riot police were cornered by youths who rained stones down on them from a terrace above a café. The officers were surrounded by the crowd, beaten and stripped. The demonstrators let them go but made a pile of their uniforms, guns and riot shields and burned them. Residents were convinced that they were confronting not regular police but

special forces dispatched by President Berisha to retake control of the city.

The officers, who were naked but for their underwear, took refuge in local houses. The police said that they had fired in the air before being overwhelmed, but some protesters said shots had been aimed at them and showed journalists buckshot wounds.

During running battles elderly men and women smashed up paving stones by the side of the road to keep younger demonstrators constantly supplied with ammunition. Police fought back, but their lines quickly fell apart and many beat a hasty retreat to the hills.

What began as a demand for the refund of lost savings is increasingly turning into a movement to overthrow the right-wing Government of President Berisha.

A pro-Western former heart surgeon, Mr Berisha was elected in 1992 on a wave of euphoria after the collapse of communism. But many Albanians believe that he either sponsored or — at the very least — failed to control pyramid-fund operators, many of whom are Albania's leading entrepreneurs and have close links to the President's Democratic Party.

In a statement, the Government said that the protests, like previous demonstrations, were the work of "left-wing extremists" within the opposition Socialists, the former Communists. The statement said that the riots had begun with a "sudden and groundless attack on the Vlore police station by people, some of whom were drunk."

But opposition leaders said the Government was cracking down brutally on even the smallest protests in an attempt to prevent them becoming a general uprising against the Berisha regime. In one incident at the weekend, opposition leaders sitting with journalists in a Tirana café frequented by left-wing activists and intellectuals were surrounded by men who burst in and struck them on the head with truncheons.

Knights of Castile on quest for Cuban damsels

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

THIRTY Spanish peasants, despairing bachelors to a man, will embark on an expedition to Havana this weekend in an attempt to find, and marry, 30 Cuban women.

The group comprises every single unmarried man in the tiny village of Arabayona, near Salamanca, in central Spain. Aged between 25 and 40, the men, all potato farmers, will be accompanied by Joaquin Ramos, the Mayor, who is married. He said: "Someone needs to supervise this expedition and I know a bit more about marriage than these fellows do."

The plight of Arabayona's men is easily explained. A mere 200 people live there, and virtually every woman of marriageable age has left to live and work in Salamanca.

The idea for a marriage expedition to Cuba arose last April when Nemesio Ramos, 40, returned with a young wife, Sandra, after a brief holiday there. With her sunny disposition and exotic looks, Sandra was an instant hit with the men of this arid Castilian village. She spread the word that there were many more women in Cuba just like her.

The men of Arabayona are not alone in their quest for Cuban wives. The Spanish Consulate-General in Havana registers an average of 50 marriages a week between Spanish men and Cuban women, and that figure is rising. A new trend, that of Spanish women marrying Cuban men, has been detected as well; a dozen such marriages now take place a week.

Most Spanish men, however, travel to Cuba with less honourable motives. Twenty flights leave Spain for Havana every week, carrying a yearly total of about 200,000 single males, most of them in search of cut-price sex.

President Castro's impoverished island is now the Spanish-speaking "Bangkok". Poverty has driven thousands of Cuban women to prostitution. Next week, however, it could also propel a few of them into the arms of diligent potato farmers from Arabayona.



Elfriede Blauensteiner brandishing a crucifix on arriving at court in the Austrian town of Krems yesterday to face a charge of poisoning a pensioner in her care

Black Widow 'would never kill'

FROM REUTER IN KREMS, AUSTRIA

THE trial of an Austrian woman suspected by police of a murder spree spanning more than a decade opened yesterday in Krems, 30 miles west of Vienna.

Elfriede Blauensteiner, 66, dubbed the "Black Widow" by the press, is charged with poisoning Alois Pichler, a pensioner, with fatal doses of medication. Police are investigating three other deaths.

Frau Blauensteiner arrived at the court wearing a beige suit and clutching a metal crucifix. "My hands are clean. I've nothing to hide," she told reporters, smiling. Asked if she would plead guilty, she said: "I would never kill. I believe in my innocence."

Police said Frau Blauensteiner confessed to five murders during the initial investigation but later withdrew the

confession. Police suspect she killed for money to finance a gambling addiction. She says that she enjoyed nursing older men.

The prosecution alleged yesterday that Frau Blauensteiner gave Pichler anti-depressant tablets, left him in a room with the windows open all night and then put him under a hot shower, causing his fatal heart attack.

Croat gun attack on Muslims

Sarajevo: Four Bosnians were hit by gunfire when Croats opened fire on Muslims who were visiting a cemetery in the divided Bosnian city of Mostar, the United Nations reported. Three explosions rocked the city on Sunday night as hand-held rockets were fired in the air at exchanges. (AFP)

Ramadan toll

Paris: Twenty-two people, including four families, were killed in Algeria in violence coinciding with the end of Ramadan. In all, 300 died over the fasting period. (Reuters)

200-car crash

Padua: About 50 people were injured, one seriously, in a 200-car pile-up in heavy fog on the A13 motorway near Venice. Traffic in both directions had to be diverted. (Reuters)

Blast deaths

Phnom Penh: A grenade blast, possibly linked to a gambling dispute, killed five people in the southern Cambodian river port of Kampot, an Interior Ministry official said. (Reuters)

30 students die

Lagos: Thirty students died when their bus collided with a lorry in northern Nigeria, the News Agency of Nigeria said. They were returning home for the end of Ramadan. (Reuters)

Punk clash

Magdeburg: Punk rockers protesting at the killing of a member of their left-wing group clashed with police overnight in this eastern German city. Three were arrested. (Reuters)

Crime watch

Nancy: A burglar who stole a video tape from a paedophile reported him to the authorities, a court heard here. It showed Michel Chretien, 48, having sex with young girls. (AFP)



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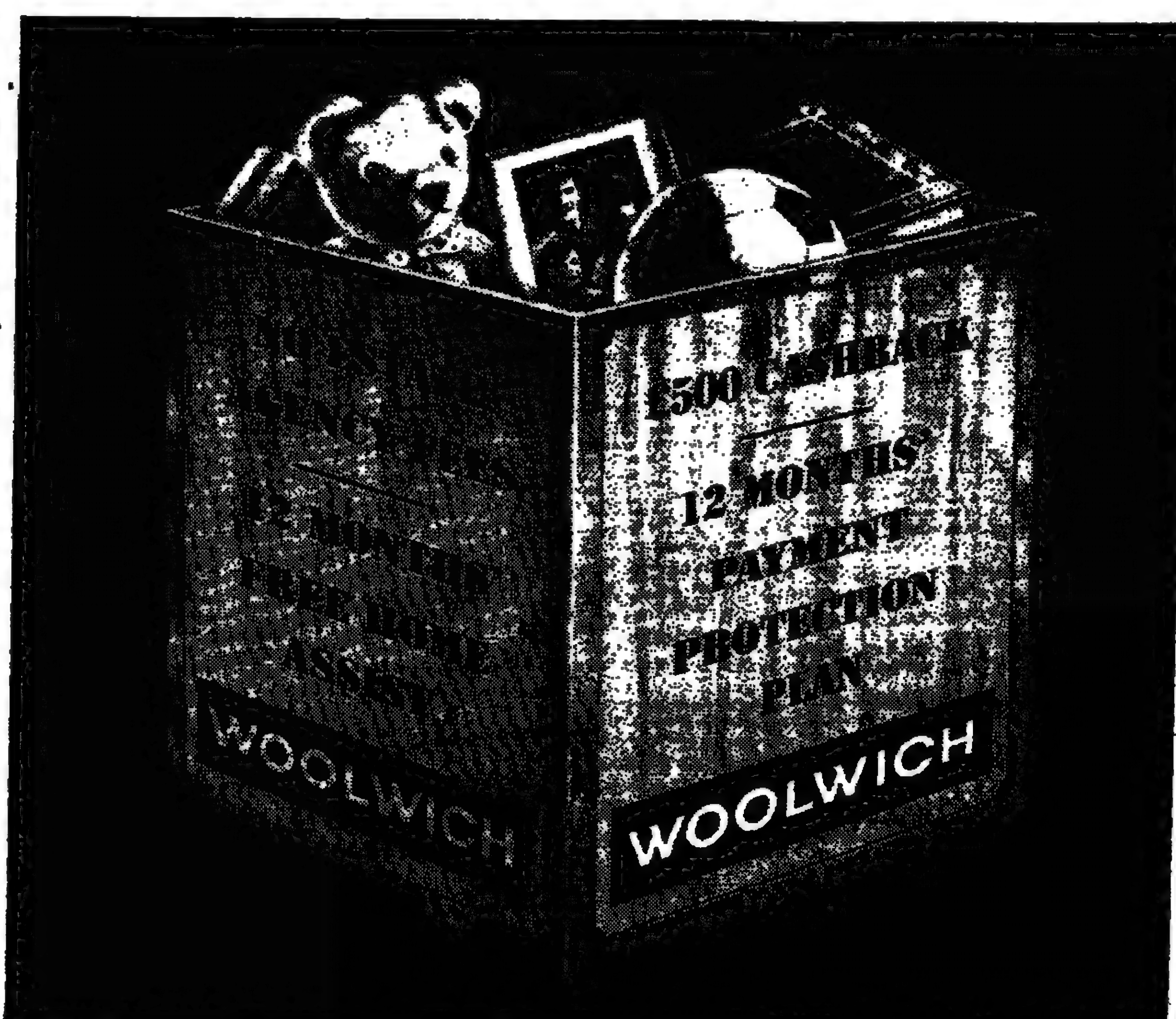
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Adoption v abortion: Two adoptive parents, Richard Whitfield and Liv O'Hanlon, on the need for change

A sacrifice of love



'Ten years beyond the passage of the 1967 Abortion Act, there were very few babies for adoption, so we were lucky as a family to be chosen in this way'

My wife, Shirley, and I adopted our first son in 1965 as a baby and, after having two 'home-produced' sons, we adopted a baby girl in 1977 as a result of the birth mother's preference to have her daughter grow up in a ready-made family of natural and adopted children.

Ten years beyond the passage of the 1967 Abortion Act, there were very few babies available for adoption, so we were lucky as a family to be chosen in this way.

I remember being chilled when our adopted son, at the age of 20, remarked: "Of course, Dad, if I'd been conceived in the mid-80s rather than the mid-60s, the chances are that I'd never have been." This is uncomfortable stuff, but the adopted in particular speak for the unborn. Our two adopted young people's deepest feelings lie behind this piece.

The nation's conscience about child and family welfare is uneasy and has been for some time. The high incidence of family breakdown, child neglect and concern about delinquency among the young are not a passing phenomenon.

During my adult life children have been moved towards the periphery of adult priorities. This is reflected in a range of public policies and private decisions. Crucial is the need of all children for secure early attachments. We are still far too slow to learn that only rarely can substitute childcare and schooling act as replacements for secure attachments at a place called "home".

Both adoption and abortion have recently been pushed on to political agendas. Adoption because it has been in decline as a child welfare option. Abortion because this election year is the thirtieth anniversary of the 1967 Act which, in effect, sanctioned abortion for social convenience. The two issues are entirely separated legally, and are generally discussed as if there were no connections. This is a tragedy for our society.

For every woman, and her male lover/partner, an unwanted pregnancy implicitly, if not practically, faces them with the abortion versus adoption option.

Many of those faced with an unwanted pregnancy seem not to consider the adoption option seriously because such a course of action has become both stigmatised and rare in terms of follow-through. That is partly because the essentially Judeo-Christian link between love and personal sacrifice has

become culturally diminished. Over the past 30 years, the number of children who have been adopted as babies before their first birthday has declined from about 12,000 to a mere 350 per year. There is no legal obligation on medical advisers or social workers to explain the adoption option to biological parents who cannot cope with the long-term practical consequences of their pregnancy. This is a serious weakness in abortion-related advice.

I believe that many more women would select the adoption option if it were clearly explained in terms of likely advantages, including long-term personal health. Adoption is, for all but a small minority, a huge success story. If it can be arranged earlier rather than later in a child's life, then so much the better. Currently, there are far too many delays within local authorities' childcare registers, where adoption is too often seen as the last resort.

For all of us, life begins with an attachment, when a fertilised egg lodges securely at the wall of our biological mother's uterus. Such secure and nourishing attachments, and later safe separations, are deep metaphors for much of our later life story.

The high prevalence of social abortion feeds a culture of disposability, corroding a sense of commitment to life and to each other. As voters, we need to be more forthright about having an election agenda which is devised as if people, including our young citizens, matter.

Sober reflection upon the many insecurities within our creaking social ecology will not be able to duck abortion or adoption, nor our need for stable attachments, and the urgency of developing a raft of policies which will provide better education and protection for dual parenting and long-term partnering. Such may be for some a moral crusade. More wisely, it needs portraying as simple "good housekeeping and homemaking", to sustain both an efficient economy and a society in which all can truly be proud to live, because everyone knows that they matter.

Richard Whitfield is Emeritus Professor of Education at the University of Aston, and Warden of St George's House, a non-aligned charitable study centre in Windsor Castle, where he has co-ordinated a series of Consultations of Family Policy.



Liv O'Hanlon and her children: the adoption of her two Latin American-born sons has taken six years and one month and it is not over yet

For our children's sake

So far it has taken us six years and one month to make our two Latin American-born sons truly ours, or, rather, it has taken the adoption system that long, and we're not through it yet. Our second boy, who is 27 months old, and has been with us for 20 of those, is still causing files to be enlarged and legal minds to ponder. We don't expect him to be a legal member of our family until the summer. Six-and-a-half years, maybe more, to give two boys a family. Seventy-six months of non-stop dealing with social workers, local authorities, adoption agencies, lawyers, guardians ad litem, courts and judges. You may think that this time

lapse is excusable as the result of trying to integrate two complex and differing legal systems. But let me tell you another adoption story: that of Agnes and Winston. She is white, a teacher and former foster-mother. He is a man of letters, black, and from the West Indies. Unable to produce children together, they decided to adopt. Their hopes were high. They knew there were many mixed-race and black children in need of new families. They knew there was a shortage of mixed-race and black couples seeking to adopt. That is what social workers and academics and adoption agencies all the time have explained who will take on the nitty-gritty of adoption if it is — as he wants — removed from "politically correct" social workers.

Labour has yet to reveal any radical intentions. But maybe something stirs: its spokeswoman on children, Anne Coffey, speaks firmly on the need for improved training and monitoring of social workers. "Social workers must meet minimum standards. They should be checked out every few years and if they don't reach those standards, out they must go."

Over the years, common sense seems to have deserted social work. Common sense suggests that, all things being equal, a child will be better off in a family that reflects his first family's origins. But common sense also says if a child is, say, a quarter Vietnamese, a quarter Cambodian, and half English, it is hard to find a similar family. We were twice passed by our south London local authority as suitable to adopt from abroad children racially different from ourselves. But when we asked to be considered for one of Lambeth's non-white charges, we were told to go away because we were not a mixed-race family.

Other ideologies have also clouded the adoption debate. The Right wants to see state-supported single mothers divested of their children; the Left sees adoption as the pernicious rich buying the birthright of the poor. Then in jumps the anti-abortion brigade declaring that if the 160,000 women a year who legally abort are prevented from doing so, lots of jolly nice respectable infertile people could be made into parents. Many of those women would choose abortion even if it meant a life-threatening visit to the back streets. But equally, it is absurd that women who are unwillingly pregnant are given only two options,

either keep it or kill it. Surely adoption could be mentioned as a possibility. Reality for children in care is grim, as are the numbers. A government statistician unofficially told me that 250,000 was "a reasonable, probably rather low, annual figure" for the number of children looked after by social services.

The results of long-term care are horrendous: the majority pass through six or more careers and leave at 16 with no education; many end up living on the streets, fall into drug abuse and prostitution, or end up in hospitals from care; are finalised each year, yet adoption has a high rate of success in terms of stability, education and career.

What adoption needs is radical reform, not just a quiet tinkering with the status quo. A new central adoption authority is vital. It must be responsible and accountable directly to government and the public. It must have four chief tasks: to establish good practice, which includes setting down and monitoring time-limits for children in care (already demanded under the



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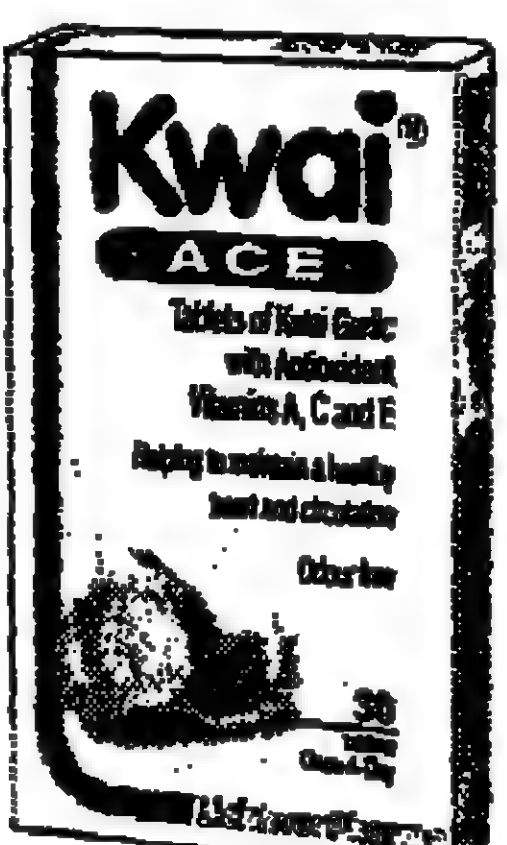
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'A new central, responsible adoption authority is vital'

Adoption is a mess and John Major has declared twice recently that 'Something Must Be Done'. Political correctness must be eradicated, he says. Social workers must be stopped from preventing people becoming parents. Privatisation is the answer. He says. Reform is certainly vital. But the Government has made promises for years. Little has happened other than the increased strength of bureaucracy. For example, the dozen or so bundles of documents required for international adoptions, including the notorious home assessment, have to wend their way across 13 central government desks before they leave the country. On the domestic front, the Children Act 1989, with its laudable intention of putting children first, added more complications because social workers interpret that it requires endless attempts at rehabilitating broken families (a practice shown at its most pitiful and futile in the case of Rikki Neave). Hopes were buoyed up when an Adoption Bill was conceived. Its aim was to smooth out the domestic system and bring inter-country adoption within the law. After three years of drafting, Mr Major decided to announce its inclusion in this session's legislative programme. Then he dumped it.

Most recently, the Government-funded Overseas Adoption Helpline, the only concrete help for international adoptions, had its funds cut off. In four years it serviced 13,000 calls from adoption workers, lawyers, local authorities and potential adopters. It limps on until March and then... death. So it is very hard to believe our Prime Minister's resolve when he says he wants to reform adoption. And while endlessly criticising social workers, Mr Major proposes nothing to improve their appalling situation. He has explained who will take on the nitty-gritty of adoption if it is — as he wants — removed from "politically correct" social workers. Labour has yet to reveal any radical intentions. But maybe something stirs: its spokeswoman on children, Anne Coffey, speaks firmly on the need for improved training and monitoring of social workers. "Social workers must meet minimum standards. They should be checked out every few years and if they don't reach those standards, out they must go."

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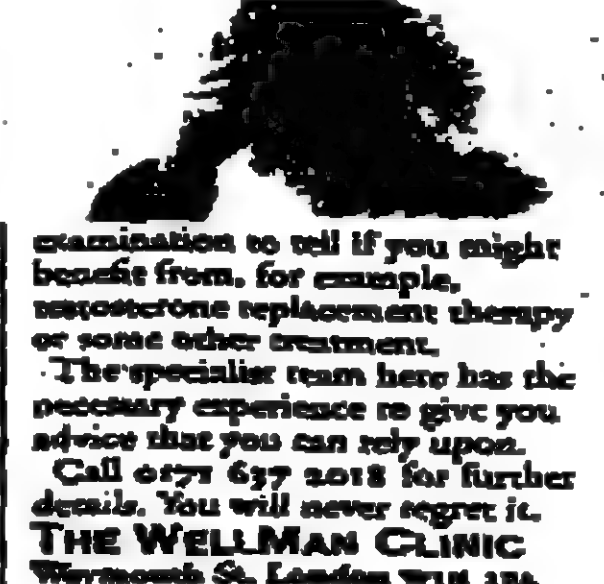


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A sleeping partner strikes back

Lorna Wendt is making American legal history by claiming half her husband's fortune, for her role as a 'corporate wife'. Interview by Quentin Letts

WITH THAT chilling single money men know when big sums are at risk, married millionaires on Wall Street are awaiting a decision in the next few days from a Connecticut divorce court.

To the untrained eye, the saga of *Wendt v Wendt*, currently grinding through the State Superior Court in the commuter town of Stamford, is that unexceptional saga of modern America: a couple, married for 31 years, have realised that their marriage is dead and are going through the agony of divorce.

But not quite. For Gary and Lorna Wendt are exceptionally well off, and it is unusual for such a prosperous couple to take matters to court. Furthermore, Mrs Wendt is gunning for half of her husband's \$100 million fortune — something that never normally happens over the \$10 million mark.

Lorna Wendt, a 53-year-old, whose eyes are ringed by tiredness and the stress of estrangement, has become the unlikely champion for a newly identified class of Western woman: the "corporate wife". She, like so many women in recent years, saw her husband rise steadily through the ranks of corporate America to the point that he was earning vast sums — reward packages far in excess of those given to previous generations of managers.

While her husband came home gleeful at his good luck, Lorna Wendt was proud and happy for him. After all, she reflected, some of that success was due to her own contribution to the marriage. As Mrs Gary Wendt she not only attended firm events and "played the company line". She also nurtured her husband, soothed him, and generally kept him in the mental condition he needed to have to fulfil his duties as chief executive of GE Capital, one of America's biggest financial concerns. Now that the marriage has come crashing to a halt — he has found a new woman — Lorna Wendt is determined that she should share the fruits of what she argues was a joint enterprise, a 50-50 partnership.

Mrs Wendt candidly describes the marital split in the vernacular of big business. "He wanted to buy out my partnership and I did not want to be bought out," she says. "It is like a hostile takeover." They first started to date as school sweethearts, and after marriage she worked as a music teacher in a state



First Wives Club: Diane Keaton, Goldie Hawn and Bette Midler

school in order to pay his graduate college fees. "I kept him," she recalls.

"I was a wife with all that entails. I worked and then I had two daughters, becoming a full-time wife. Then I had a third career — I became a corporate wife. At home we would discuss issues, discuss his work. And when we went out to evening receptions I always felt I was not only representing Gary as his wife, I also felt that I was representing GE. As a corporate wife you are constantly open to scrutiny. You become used to a certain level of pressure."

Mr Wendt, 54, who in his business dealings is regarded as something of a financial wizard, offered his wife \$10 million as a settlement but she refused. "I replied that it was not the price of the buyout," she says. She wants \$50 million. Mr Wendt claims that his wife was "not responsible" for his success. "This is about who created and preserved the assets," he said.

Allan Abramowitz, head of the New York chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, agrees that the "corporate wife" is a new force to be reckoned with. She is militant and, having normally listened to the endless work-talk and late-night deal-making that is expected of the modern corporate husband, she knows the lingo.

'We'll be seeing more and more of these cases'

In former decades a canny husband could probably still hope to conceal financial secrets from his wife. There was the tendency to wave such things aside as being too difficult for the dear girls to understand. But Lorna Wendt learnt to decipher the argot of international deals, investments and stockholdings. She also knew how to hire a good attorney.

"We'll be seeing more and more of these cases," Mr Abramowitz says. "People's expectations have become so great, and the women's movement has made wives very determined." The recent ballooning of salaries at the top end of corporate America was also to blame. "It is Monopoly money," sighs Mr Abramowitz. Other lawyers are not so troubled. Dan Con-

rette, publisher of *Divorce* magazine, predicts: "This case will lead to an increase in pre-nuptial agreements and will therefore create more work for attorneys. But if it forces people to be more honest about the extent of their relationships, that could be a good thing."

Toni Goodale, a Manhattan divorce counselor, argues: "Some women have devoted their lives to furthering their husband's career. Of course she should get half." A more typical reaction is that of John Gutfreund, the former emperor of Salomon Brothers. "A woman who

worked hard is entitled to a fair split," he said, "but I don't know if it is 50-50."

The militancy of corporate wives was recently given a shot in the arm by the hit film *First Wives Club* which celebrated divorce as a woman's liberation. Women who are deserted by their husbands now fancy themselves as the film's stars, Diane Keaton, Bette Midler and Goldie Hawn. The movie took Lorna Wendt as its inspiration, but she was too unusual a commodity to be a genuine "corporate wife".

Supporters of Mr Wendt argue that corporate wives have it easy: mornings spent in the boudoir, afternoons at the healthclub, and evenings on the charity ball circuit. Manhattan's Upper East side is full of them, which explains the nervousness the Wendt case has created in New York.

Lorna Wendt says that it is the "principle" of the thing. "Any dissolution of marriage is sad but I am bearing up and what he was offering me was not fair. This is not about need. I can get along on \$10 million but why should he get \$90 million? I entered into this marriage as a partner. I don't know when he decided that it was not a partnership. He's not the man I married or loved. I stopped loving him when he announced that he wanted a divorce. It came as a thunderbolt."

Sally Oldham, one of her lawyers, notes that Mr Wendt had been "ungenerous in his recollections of the marriage — he doesn't have the generosity to say that Lorna was a good wife and a good mother". Would Lorna Wendt have persisted with the case if her husband had declared to the court that he appreciated the good years that they had lived together, had loved her, had cherished her? When asked this question, she pauses, gives a sigh, and agrees softly: "Absolutely." So, he stands to lose \$40 million simply because he would not say "I loved you".

If she wins, Mrs Wendt claims that she will put some of the money into helping other corporate wives. "I foresee becoming an advocate for women's rights, yes. Women of my age felt that our career was our husband's career," Wendt v Wendt is expected to draw to an end in a few days, and then, after a short delay, will come the verdict. Until that day, whatever happens to the Dow Jones, Wall Street is going to be a jumpy place.



Lorna and Gary Wendt: they met at school, and after marriage, she worked to pay his college fees

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Fancy becoming a best-selling novelist and reaping the fruits of literary glory, including royalty cheques, appearances on *Oprah*, and envy-induced ulcers triggered by seeing the size of John Grisham's next advance? Of course you do.

A spooky number of lawyers, models, cabbies and journalists are convinced that they have a great novel inside them, which in most cases would be true only if they had just taken a copy of *Brighton Rock* down from their bookshelves and eaten the whole thing page by page.

Maria Barrett was once a yearner, too. Then eight years ago, while working in the City, she began scribbling at her desk. Binge! It turned out to be a synopsis. A publisher encouraged her to stick at it, hinted that learning to spell probably wouldn't be a big drawback, but advised Barrett against giving up her day job. Next day Maria gave up her day job. Now, at 33, she has five novels behind her and she's making bigish money. So how hard can writing a novel be?

Basically: less hard than solving Fermat's Last Theorem, but trickier than people imagine even people who have read a

I think I feel a novel coming on

whole Jeffrey Archer novel. What we need are a few tips about how to get beyond the Greene wannabe stage.

In her book, *Bestseller: Secrets of Successful Writing*, the novelist Celia Brayfield offers this advice: "The stories that bestsellers tell are superficially about fictional characters, invented places and fantastic scenarios, but in fact are about ordinary life. They actually address the hopes and fears of the human race."

"Behind the dinosaurs, *Jurassic Park* expresses our fear of offending natural order. John Grisham's stories are our dragon-slaying sagas — the dragon being institutionalised corruption."

So if you wake up one morning with a strong urge to "address the hopes and fears of the human race," then the chances are you might have the germ of a novel inside you.

But if addressing the hopes and fears of the human race doesn't come naturally to you, don't panic. Because as far as literary motivation goes, boredom can do the trick just as well. Ask Maria Barrett.

Barrett, whose fifth novel, *Intimate Lies*, was published recently, now has about a quarter of a million books in print.

But she started writing her first novel — a rags-to-riches revenge novel called *Elle*, because she was twiddling her thumbs in a financial PR office in 1989. Barrett had time on her hands and an underemployed secretary who could type out her first stabs at literature. And stabs they turned out to be.

"It was a mishmash. It was just a storyline, with lots of really bad prose thrown in."

At this point Barrett had the huge good fortune to cross the path of Philippa Harrison — now chief executive of the publisher Little, Brown, but then taking a break from the publishing industry. A friend of Barrett's had passed the synopsis to Harrison, who saw something worth getting enthusiastic about. "I could see that she'd got something. I was swept away by her heroine."

The spelling was shaky, and

there were quite a few structural problems. But what impressed Harrison was how Barrett could spit out fresh, alternative plot ideas off the top of her head.

Barrett handed in her notice immediately and started re-writing. "I rewrote it three times," she recalls now, "from beginning to end. And each time Philippa would look it over and there would be more problems. The main problem was the prose. The story seemed to be fairly strong."

Harrison acknowledged that it was "a very unusual apprenticeship". Publishers rarely have time to nurse a new author through three drafts. Barrett wonders how she would have managed without Harrison's confidence as a buttress.

By this stage, a twist in Harrison's career brought her into the driving seat of Little, Brown, where the manuscript of *Elle* was picked up by a senior editor without any knowledge of Harrison's past involvement in it. Little, Brown "pushed it like hell", printing 80,000 copies,

straight into paperback. *Elle* made *The Sunday Times*' bestseller list.

Each novel since has outsold the previous one. When it's time for the next, she submits four storylines to Little, Brown. She and her editor select one and she begins her research — in the case of *Intimate Lies*, about how easy it might be to be a bigamist.

Harrison says: "Maria is very serious about what she

does, which was one of the reasons I knew she was going to make it. *Elle* works because Maria absolutely believed in the characters she was writing about — authenticity is the single most important thing; the second reason is that she can write, and most amateur novelists can't. You can't teach anyone to write."

Any other tips before we scrawl "Chapter One" in our notebooks?

Harrison says: "Don't patronise is the only tip I have. And don't think it's easy."

Intimate Lies is published by Little, Brown (£16.99).

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Break the Bundesbank — or bust

Germans must cut costs or devalue, says Anatole Kaletsky

Is Germany destined to become the economic sick man of Europe? To ask such a question is to invite derision. Germany is still invariably described by the conventional wisdom as "the economic powerhouse of Europe". But Germany's unemployment is back to levels last seen in the 1930s. Its economy has all but stopped growing. Even the legendary German export industries are living on borrowed time: selling as much as they can from existing factories that would never be built with today's cost structure, while they work feverishly to move their production abroad.

Yet there is nothing inevitable about Germany's economic decline. The trend in Germany's unemployment could be quickly reversed and the country could resume rapid economic growth. To do this, however, the Germans would have to make some bold choices.

The advice commonly offered to the Germans is to abandon their "Rhenish" social-market model and move to an American free-market economy, with low taxes, weak trade unions, deregulation and minimal welfare support for the poor and the jobless. But what if the Germans are unwilling to embrace these reforms? What if they insist on sticking to the socio-economic system that has given them 50 years of prosperity, stability and peace? Is Germany then condemned to perpetual mass unemployment and steady decline?

Not necessarily. There is another option, but it is one that no German politician or economist dare discuss. That option is to undertake a massive devaluation of the mark to bring German costs into line with those of other countries even without any dramatic social reforms.

Conceptually, this is quite simple. In 1995, hourly labour costs in western Germany were 180 per cent of those in America, and 156 per cent of those in France. In order to restore its international competitiveness, German industry could proceed in one of three ways. It could reduce wages by 30 per cent or more. It could eliminate most employment taxes and abolish its social safety net. Or it could eschew all social reforms and simply devalue its currency.

To bring German costs down to the American level would require a 45 per cent devaluation of the mark from its 1995 level, or 35 per cent from its rather lower level today.

Is such an easy escape from the German dilemma really conceivable? Certainly. The whole point of an independent currency is that it allows a nation to trade freely with the rest of the world while making its own choices about the way it wants to organise its economy and social system.

Experience shows that very steep devaluations of major currencies are not only possible but quite common. In the past two years, for example, the yen has fallen 35 per cent

against the dollar, while the dollar fell by more than 50 per cent against the mark, the yen and the pound between 1985 and 1993. Experience also shows that dramatic changes in currency levels need not threaten price stability, although they are bound to produce a one-off increase in imported inflation. What, then, would be the drawbacks for Germany of choosing a policy of devaluation to make its industry internationally competitive again?

I can think of only three. First, there are many experts who believe that Germany ought to abandon or modify the Rhenish model — and that the unemployment crisis produced by an overvalued currency is a way of forcing change. Secondly, a devaluation would lower the living standards of German workers and consumers, especially when they go on holiday or buy foreign goods. To reduce real wages is, indeed, the very purpose of devaluation, and this tends to be unpopular.

Thirdly, and I think most importantly, there is the question of inflated egos and institutional pride. To admit that Germany's economic crisis could now be solved by devaluing the mark would imply that the crisis was partly caused by the monetary misjudgments of the Bundesbank. This is obviously true, but I know of no German who is willing to say so in public. The Bundesbank, which is legally independent of politicians, could resist a demand for devaluation, even if this were the clearly expressed policy of the Government. In theory, therefore, an all-out policy of devaluation and monetary expansion might even require a vote of the German parliament to change the Bundesbank law, although in practice the Bundesbank is a politically sensitive institution that rarely defies what it sees as the democratic will.

So the real issue is not the legal status of the Bundesbank or the feasibility of doing a deal with Germany's G7 partners to manage a devaluation of the mark. The real issue is the German people's unwillingness to face the problem.

Germans can keep their social safety net, its regulations and its high taxes, but only if they are prepared to accept lower living standards and a much weaker mark. Or they can keep their strong mark and their high wages, but only if they dismantle their social model.

What Germans cannot have is the world's strongest currency, the world's highest living standards and the world's most generous level of social protection, all at the same time. To put it another way, the Germans will have to slaughter some of their sacred cows to pull out of their present economic morass. But whether they choose to destroy their social safety net, emasculate their trade unions or humiliate the Bundesbank is up to them.



WEDDING OFF?

Peter Brookes

Brassy but not bold

Chris Morris can be funny, but his latest show is a vicious con-trick

Shrove Tuesday today, *carne vale*, a day for wild jokes and masked misbehaviour, licensed feasting and foolery before the austerities of Lent. I have just, for the first time, spent carnival weekend in Venice wandering around in a cloak and mask with all the other bemused tourists, dodging fantastic harlequins and facepaint artists and colliding in dim alleys with a succession of vast rocco hats above white, impassive cardboard faces. Forget pancakes: they do these things best in Roman Catholic countries. Even better, the framework of a religious tradition contains the convention that it all stops on Ash Wednesday and bare sober faces come pendulous to church.

Back in our world, of course, frolics and licence and lampoon and cruelty continue all year round, made stale by repetition. So nothing could be more appropriate than to come back to an escalating row, stretching from a question in Parliament to an irate Claire Rayner, about the *Brass Eye* comedy programme on Channel 4. This opens many avenues for Lenten meditation on the uses of comedy and of lies, and the wavering line between malicious deception and cathartic masquerade. Every civilisation has expended energy trying to draw that line. We should, too.

For newcomers to the row, a résumé. Chris Morris is a youngish comedian of some brilliance, discovered in the Radio 4 spoof news programme, *On the Hour*. He played the threatening interrogator and snarling anchorman who intones, in perfect parody of the most contemptuous, self-important news-shows, such lines as "That's the news — I'm Chris Morris — You're not" and "Those are the headlines. Happy now?"

The show transferred to BBC television as *The Day Today*, and delivered salutary send-ups of the confrontational, sensational, soundbite triteness which perpetually threatens broadcast news. The programmes, together with Steve Coogan's *Knowing Me Knowing You* from the same stable, have done for contemporary broadcasting what the Pythons' "Alan Whicker Island" and horrible game show hosts did in the 1970s, and what Victoria Wood's lampoons of sofa-TV and Stephen Fry's spoof consumer shows did in the 1980s. Each in turn has forced the medium reluctantly to admit its own awful mannerisms.

Morris belongs to a group of gifted young comics — Coogan, Patrick Marber, Rebecca Front — who have done the same for the 1990s (usually under the direction of Armando Iannucci). It is a good deed, not only because it amuses the public, but because it makes broadcasters squirm. As a talk show presenter I listen to Coogan's Alan Partridge quite often, and never fail to notice when I start to fall into his dreadful ways. If they are honest, TV news presenters do the same with Chris Morris. So don't write him off as another cheeky young quip; he has done the state some service, and they know it.

However, with *Brass Eye* he goes further. After being removed from Radio 1 for assorted tasteless stunts such as announcing Michael Heseltine's death, he and his cohorts composed a show for the more free-wheeling Channel 4. Even so, Michael Grade postponed it once.

What the show does is make up a news story and get real personages to comment on it. Thus animal welfareists such as Carla Lane are interviewed by Mr Morris in a false mustache under a false name, and persuaded to back a campaign over an imaginary elephant that died after sticking its trunk up its back end, and to condemn equally imaginary "twasit fighting in the East End". A Tory MP, David Amess, is persuaded to submit a parliamentary question about a wholly imaginary drug known as "Cake". Noel Edmonds makes a televised appeal about it, and so does Bernard Manning. Figures such as Sir Bernard Ingham and Sir Peregrine Worsthorne are wooed to appear on a show calling itself "The Main Agenda", and asked vaguely nonsensical questions about animal experimentation or drugs.

They answer courteously enough. After all, since the dizzy expansion of radio and television channels it is a commonplace of public life to be

asked stupid questions in makeshift studios by unknown presenters who appear to be off their heads. Even a humble columnist gets six calls a week saying "This is the Nikki-Jo Fandangle Show on BXVD FM, we want you to join a discussion on incest. If not, would you mind just telling us your favourite breed of dog, for a survey we're doing to raise money for our Sick Animal Appeal?"

Chris Morris's unwitting victims think they are doing something like this: vaguely useful, slightly half-baked but no worse than a lot of broadcasting. They know better only when they see themselves looking ridiculous months later on the comedy show. Granted, the target is "not so much their beliefs — although you are invited to snigger at their gullibility — as the monster of television itself, or as

one friendly commentator put it, "the media's obsession with itself, and celebrities' obsession with the media".

So is this good, robust satire? Comedy and deception have always gone together: a jester in a mask reveals himself to be the wrong sex; the man in Chaucer's Miller's Tale puts his backside out of the window to be kissed by the seducer and breaks wind in his face; *Private Eye* puts a wicked speech balloon onto a real photograph; video trickery makes the Pope dance to the Spice Girls; judicious cuts make Harry Enfield's hideous Tory Boy appear to be applauded by the party conference. We need to laugh at the famous and powerful, and risk one another's pretensions. Why not?

In this case there are some cogent reasons why not. The trouble is that because these people are being duped, *Brass Eye* is less funny than vicious, less crusading than cowardly. Like other jokers of the past few years (remember the Henry Root letters, or the Canadian smart-arse who telephoned the Queen on radio?), it kicks unsuspecting people in the teeth and punishes not wrongdoing but trustfulness. It is a nasty little

boy without much imagination, who rings the doorbell and runs away. It erodes general trust: as Claire Rayner puts it, "Because of this series, fewer and fewer honest people who speak on TV out of conviction will agree to do so in future."

Well, let's play the devil's advocate here: given the standard of a lot of media rent-a-quoting you could argue that this might not be altogether a bad thing. Yet there is something else, more to do with art than with morals, which troubles me about it.

The problem with this kind of comedy is that it lacks art, and craft. If you mimic and parody figures and types — as in the work of *Spitting Image*, *Rory Bremner*, *Victoria Wood*, and the brilliant newer team of Coogan, Front, Marber, Iannucci and the rest — what you do is true comic art. Chris Morris can achieve this too, beautifully, when curbed and guided by a proper producer.

his kind of comic art, if studied (even if vicious) parody, can convey far more truth about — say — the absurd world of soundbite celebrity than you ever can by merely entrapping real ones. When Rebecca Front wickedly lampoons a fashion designer's pretensions on *Knowing Me Knowing You*, she does more to deflate them than you ever could by tricking the real Vivienne Westwood (which would only make the audience uneasy, and sorry for her, and distract us entirely from the joke). When John Bird and John Fortune conduct their interviews as captains of industry and politicians, they achieve an essential distillation of the awfulness of both. It is difficult and admirable work.

The *Brass Eye* trickery does not display such skill: nor much thought, artistry or effort. If there is a parallel, it is with the idle self-important decadence of "artists" who deal only in objects, trivials, plaster casts of dead bodies, erotica or cut-up cows. This art cannot last and is not nourishing. Comedy is art too. Those who push back frontiers are those who deploy most skill: Dali not Damien Hirst, Fluck and Law not Jeremy Beadle. Far from defusing pretension, *Brass Eye* buys the most pretentious and empty of all vogueish theories that all you need do is think up a good wheeze and there is no need to draw or sculpt — or in this case, act and script. For which reason it won't last long; so perhaps we need not worry.

Proconsul Dorrell slips up

Scots Tories don't need him, says

Magnus Linklater

God protect me from my friends, Michael Forsyth must have muttered yesterday as he paced the corridors of the Scottish Office. As for Stephen Dorrell, he probably felt a bit like Rodney in *Only Fools and Horses*, blowing apart one of Del Boy's better schemes by inconveniently sticking to the script: "What'd I say?" he may well be asking. "What'd I do wrong?"

What the Health Secretary had done wrong was to fall into one of those classic mantraps which so many Westminster politicians fail to spot when they blunder into the Scottish jungle. Questioned in *The Scotsman* about his views about a future Scottish parliament, Mr Dorrell pointed out the anomalies it would create. There was the famous West Lothian question, he said. How could any arrangement be justified which gave Scottish MPs the right to debate English matters in the House of Commons, when English MPs would have no equivalent right to discuss Scottish matters? *The Scotsman* put the obvious follow-up question: would the Tories, then, get rid of a Scottish parliament? "Yes, absolutely," was Mr Dorrell's reported reply.

True, he has now backtracked, claiming only that his party might wish to change the arrangement, not abolish it altogether. But the damage has been done. What came across was a whiff of the post-colonialism that so many Scots still detect within the Tory party when it comes to Scottish matters. It was a bit like Lord Curzon dictating the partition of Bengal and loftily dismissing the ensuing outcry as mere "rhetoric and declamation". It ran directly counter to the current Tory line in Scotland.

Alex Salmond, the leader of the Scottish National Party, said that it proved that devolution simply meant giving Scotland "a dog licence from Westminster", and Labour, which has been struggling under the sustained onslaught of Mr Forsyth and his gibes about a "tartan tax", leapt on it as "a monumental gaffe".

But Mr Dorrell, you may say, was only rehearsing the West Lothian question, which has never been satisfactorily answered. He pointed out that a Scottish parliament would undermine the Union, and went on to argue that there would be no logic in carrying on with a constitutional reform that does not work. Ergo, it should be abolished — well, changed. But logic is not always the handiest weapon for a politician. What Mr Dorrell ignored was the incoherence of democracy: if a Scottish parliament is voted in under Labour, it will be as a result of a referendum, something the Tories are rather keen on themselves when it comes to Europe; he made no reference to that.

Nor did he seem to appreciate all the Scottish Secretary's careful work in the past few months. Mr Forsyth has been trying to emphasise the Scottishness of the party rather than its Britishness. His references to the term "Britain" these days are few and far between. Instead, he claims the Scottish patriot William Wallace as a Tory hero, he returns the Stone of Destiny to its rightful home, he quotes the 14th-century Declaration of Arbroath to proclaim his pride in Scottish nationhood. More to the point, when pressed on the issue of a Scottish parliament, he says that "of course" the Conservatives would field candidates for it. "We would argue our corner," he told Radio Scotland recently, "and if a parliament has the endorsement of the Scottish people, we are not going to abolish it."

That is the sensible and pragmatic answer. Indeed, it may well be the only way back for a party that once commanded a majority in Scotland but which currently languishes at less than 19 per cent. Ironically, Labour's agreement to a system of proportional representation for a Scottish parliament actually gives the Tories a claim to a healthy number of seats. Then, if things go wrong for Labour — and bedding in a new parliament is unlikely to be straightforward — they stand to gain. Privately, some senior Tories concede that devolution offers them the best chance on offer of making a serious comeback.

All of which makes Stephen Dorrell's intervention somewhat inconvenient for his Scottish colleagues. The West Lothian question no longer excites much comment in Scotland; it has been placed on a dusty shelf. Even Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP who asked it, has agreed to leave it alone for the time being. Labour's standard response is that it is no worse an anomaly than the one that gave Scotland unpopular legislation like the poll tax or opt-out schools.

The general view is that under a Labour government there will be no immediate reduction of Scottish MPs at Westminster. Numbers may well have to come down eventually, but meanwhile there are more important things to worry about.

All in all, there may be grounds for reconsidering Mr Dorrell's suitability as the principal Tory spokesman on constitutional matters. Mr Dorrell himself may care to reflect on another of Lord Curzon's airy comments: the Tories, he said, "can govern and make war and increase taxation and expenditure *d'a merveille*, but legislation is not their province in a democratic constitution".

Funny fellow

WHAT IS happening to the Prince of Wales? For the first time, he has lent his name to a fellowship at Oxford. But it has nothing to do with his artistic or architectural interests. Instead he has given consent to the establishment of the Prince of Wales Fellowship for the study of the Islamic world.

Oxford's Centre for Islamic Studies, of which the Prince is a patron, claimed yesterday that the fellowship would help to promote

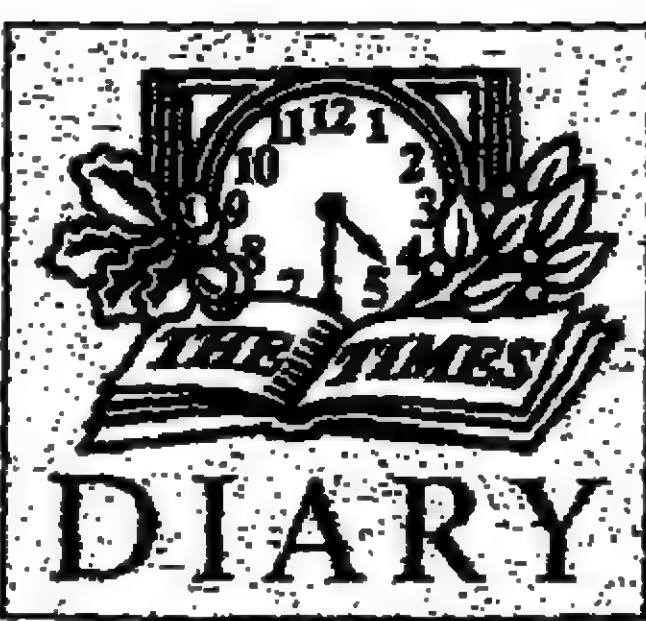
understanding between the West and Islam. But as the potential future head of the Church of England, the heir to the throne once again risks controversy by linking his name so publicly to the Islamic faith.

Dr David Browning, registrar at Oxford's Centre for Islamic Studies, denies that the fellowship is contentious. "Everything that the Prince of Wales has said has been simply to encourage us to learn more about each other and each other's religions," he said.

In his gruesome television interview with Jonathan Dimbleby, the Prince upset churchmen when he said he would like to be seen as "defender of faith", rather than "Defender of the Faith". Since 1993 he has given a series of controversial, pro-Islam speeches. Persistent rumours that the Prince is on the verge of conversion, however, have been dismissed by Buckingham Palace as rubbish.

Paper tigress

AFTER some prevarication, Amanda Platell, the acting editor of the *Sunday Mirror*, is said to



He asked the stewardess the meaning of Christmas cake in February. "Well, it's early or late," she said, "depending how you see it."

Barking art

NOT SINCE Laika the dog was sent into space by the Russians have the boundaries of canine endeavour been pushed back to such acclaim. Kali, a yellow Labrador, has opened her first art exhibition at a gallery in Shoreditch, London. Her sculptures cost up to £500.

Using a variety of raw materials, she has moulded pieces which her



Petch, chew, good boy

owner Anthony Rendall believes will sell like hot buns: "We have brought eight pieces together for her first public viewing." My picture shows Kali with an untitled composition for the show.

Jail bird

PRISONERS should not be disturbed if a small dark bundle whizzes past their cells, closely followed by a large crucifix. This will be Ann Widdecombe, the all-action Home Office Minister, who has set herself the task of visiting every prison in the country before the general election.

So far she has seen 117, and she has another 18 to go. At her best, Miss Widdecombe can hit three prisons in a day. But she only visits on a Friday, so it would be a courtesy if the Prime Minister could hold on for a May election.

Acting up

ACTING has been no tea-dance for Viviana Durante, one of Covent Garden's leading ballerinas. She took the 1996-97 season off to pursue a straight acting career and managed to bag a part in Wycheley's romp *The Country Wife* at the Citizens Theatre in Glasgow. Halfway through rehearsals,



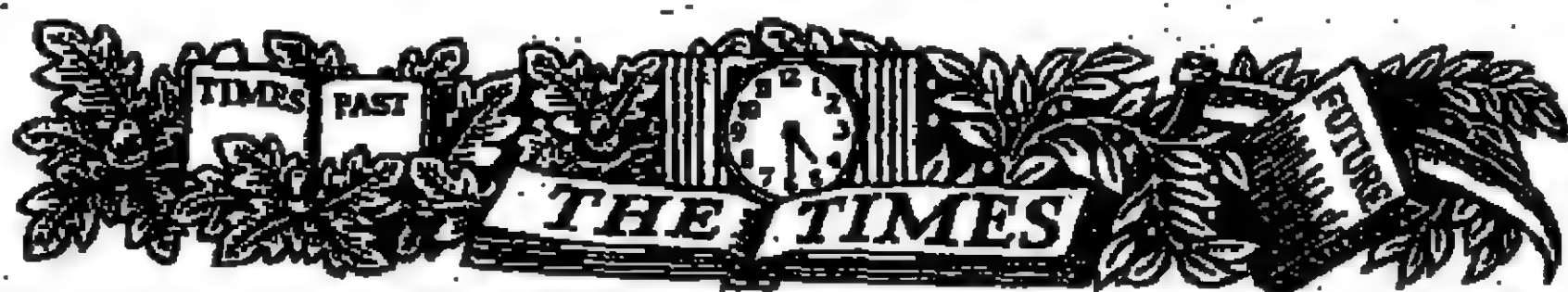
Viviana, dancing on

however, she and the company have separated. Tunes and tulle, it was decided, were always going to rank above thespian bellowing for Miss D. Luckily, Covent Garden has reserved a place for her next season.

P.H.S



Sponsor of the Islamic way



OLD PARTY CARD

Stamped with a Downing Street menu of beer and sandwiches

Under Tony Blair, Labour's thinking about the public sector has undergone considerable change. The party that once sided emphatically with the producer unions now accepts that consumers must come first — and that market techniques have real merit if they result in the more effective delivery of health, education and other government-funded services. It has largely convinced the public that this transformation is genuine, but the Shadow Cabinet is rightly apprehensive that, after 18 years of Labour in government, it is time to expect Christmas to arrive the day after any Labour victory.

The solution announced this week by Peter Hain, Labour's shadow employment minister, is to introduce job security agreements across the public sector. In terms of electoral politics, the plan may seem a neat way of signalling that Labour will indeed treat its highly unionised workforce more kindly than the Tories, while simultaneously reassuring the public that it can fend off a mudslide of pent-up claims for "catch-up" pay deals. The idea is that if the unions are convinced that public sector jobs will be safe with Labour, they will show restraint about pay and be ready to innovate. Voters should take a very long spoon to this soup.

For the public sector, Mr Hain's policy would be a milestone. If Labour wins and makes job security the linchpin of its new "social partnership", it will restore union power, inhibit further privatisation and contracting-out of services and, above all, revive the culture that has made public sector unions so resistant to change. Mr Hain says that "the Conservative legacy of public sector service cuts and job losses cannot be reversed overnight". Does that mean that given time, they will indeed be reversed?

For the private sector, Labour's enthusiasm for job security deals would spell

economic disaster. It not only takes risks with the economic cycle, in the job-creating new technology sectors, the freedom of companies to adjust the mix of skills in their workforces is a matter of life or bankruptcy. Yet Mr Hain, convinced that job insecurity obsesses the electorate, has declared war on the evils of the "deregulated, hire-and-fire labour market". He appears to have the backing of Gordon Brown, who has called job insecurity "the dominant feature of British economic life".

The Social Market Foundation has just published research by David Smith that demonstrates, to the contrary, that job insecurity is less of a problem in Britain than it is in countries wedded to "social partnership" models of industrial relations. Even among part-timers, most Britons in work are covered by employment protection; most of those working part-time do so by choice; and the proportion of people on temporary contracts is lower in Britain than in France, Germany or virtually any other industrialised country. Contrary to popular belief, people stay in the same job for nearly as long as they did 20 years ago. Since high job turnover is characteristic of an economy adjusting nimbly to new technology and markets, Britain's labour market is probably still not flexible enough.

Mr Hain seems enthusiastic for the German social market model whose regulations and non-wage perks have brought Germany its horrifyingly low unemployment. Last month on the page opposite, he asserted that "partnership between employers and unions is the only effective passport to a highly skilled society". This is old Labour at work, distrustful of free markets and the causes of free markets — a party card, stamped with the minimum wage, the social chapter and a full Downing Street menu of beer and sandwiches. If this is not what Mr Blair and Mr Brown want, they should say so.

DORRELL DROWNING

The dangers of a minister loose in Scotland

Stephen Dorrell was out of his depth when he indicated in a *Scotsman* interview that a future Tory government would reverse the creation of an Edinburgh assembly by a future Labour government. The Health Secretary was not so much waving the flag as drowning in detail. His intervention underestimates the practical difficulties of abolishing a Scottish parliament; it also undermines one of his party's most powerful arguments against Labour's devolution plans, that a vote for Labour would be a vote for an irreversible shift: one that, at worst, would cause the break-up of the United Kingdom.

There is a clear demand among Scots for greater autonomy, which finds its easiest expression in the call for an assembly. Labour, sensitive to electoral pressures from the Scottish National Party, has sought to assuage that appetite with its plans for a tax-raising Scottish parliament, introduced after a referendum and elected by PR. Many supporters of Labour's scheme believe it will satisfy Scottish demands for special treatment and thus rebid the Union.

The plans as framed, however, seem likely not to strengthen the Union but introduce debilitating decay. It would be better to seek other mechanisms to satisfy Scottish aspirations. The Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, wiser than Mr Dorrell in this and many other regards, is right to give warning of the dangers of paying dangled separatists.

The Scottish parliament that Labour envisages would be introduced after a referendum in which the Scottish people had been asked first if they approved in principle of an assembly, and secondly, if it should have tax-raising powers. The vote would be held before any Bill was introduced. The Scots would be invited not so much to buy a pig in a poke as make an investment more

speculative than the South Sea Bubble. Labour has long argued that an assembly without tax powers could not work, yet that is what it might have to legislate for after a referendum if the Scots vote yes to an assembly, but no to having to pay for it. Any devolution Bill might then be amended by the Commons, giving the Scots a body which they neither voted for nor were promised.

If Labour did, nevertheless, succeed in establishing its planned parliament that would not be the end of the matter. Scottish Labour MPs at Westminster would be deciding English education policy while Westminster was powerless to influence matters in Scotland. In Edinburgh, with the parliament capable of raising income tax by only three pence in the pound, the nationalists would argue that this limit prevented the satisfaction of every Scottish grievance.

Under a PR system, nationalists, in alliance with others on the Left, could press for more powers from Westminster. Labour ministers would be ill-placed to deny them. Every Scottish Labour MP, with the honourable exception of Tam Dalyell, has signed the *Claim of Right* for Scotland which holds that sovereignty rests with the Scottish people, not Westminster. According to its logic, demands for more powers by Gordon Brown's constituents could not be denied by Tony Blair.

If ever Mr Dorrell were Prime Minister, he might fancy that Westminster could not only deny an Edinburgh parliament more powers but deprive it of those it had. He would, however, face a body whose members' status depended on the UK being weakened as a nation state. They would be supported by federalist allies in Europe. It would be far better to stop the slide now, rather than promising to push the boulder back up the hill.

THE FRENCH FRONT

Maastricht makes fertile ground for the far Right

The march has been long, but France's National Front is arriving at its destination: a solid presence on the lower rungs of the nation's political ladder. With Catherine Mégret's victory at the weekend in Vitrolles, the Front won control of its fourth large town on the Mediterranean coast. A party whose roots lie in the half-forgotten resentments of French colonists dispossessed by de Gaulle's retreat from Algeria has now become a factor in coalition calculations the length and breadth of France: Front members sit on 21 out of 22 regional councils. A party which preaches racial discrimination, tolerates racial abuse and whose followers are sometimes violent has climbed from 0.74 per cent of the national vote in the presidential election of 1974 to a steady 15 per cent or more.

The Front once seemed extreme, today it no longer worries voters. Like the far Right Freedom Party of Jörg Haider in Austria, the French Front's candidates are younger, smarter and more photogenic. A decade ago, the Front won 35 seats in the French Parliament, but lost them all when the proportional representation system from which the party had benefited was cancelled. The Front diversified beyond its leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, and his improbable bids for the presidency. It began recruiting among police and criminal justice staff. National Front soup kitchens for the homeless sprang up. A slow and effective

drive for seats in municipal and regional authorities began.

But the Front's success was not achieved merely by swapping leather jackets for suits. Its issues have turned from the margins to mainstream. Depending on individual inclination and local circumstance, a vote for the Front is a protest registered against unemployment, political corruption, cosy conspiracy between the major parties, "immigrants" (often French citizens of North African descent), the global economy and crime. In a country in which the official jobless rate for men and women under the age of 25 touches 30 per cent, the Front's policies find a ready echo.

Its actual prescriptions are a mishmash of Gaelic hostility to free trade, compulsory repatriation of immigrants and tax reduction reminiscent of the Poujadists. Newly acquired local power has been used to nasty effect against ethnic minorities. The Mayor of Toulon withdrew a literary award to a Jewish writer. Books with titles such as *Should We Burn the Arabs of France?* are on sale in the town.

The Maastricht treaty forced a deficit-reduction programme before the country had begun to liberalise its labour market. The Parisian elite was content to leave the French young and poor to stand for years in dole queues where hatreds easily bred. All politicians in France must now deal with the result.

Trade in the arts 'mired in fraud'

From Professor David Lowenthal

Sir, "The most striking thing to a lawyer who comes upon the art world", declared Paul Baer in his *The International Trade in Art* (University of Chicago Press, 1982), "is how deep and uncritical is the assumption that transactions within it should usually be — are certainly entitled to be — secret".

Mr Baer found the art and antiquities trade mired in fraud and deception, for the acceptance of secrecy "made persons aspiring to the highest standards of personal probity accomplices in the acquisition of looted masterpieces". To dream of curing such corruption is futile.

Tighten up the art trade's code of practice, say antique dealers. This is hypocrisy: these non-binding regulations are only window-dressing when concealment benefits buyers and sellers alike. Sotheby's, along with the London art market, will survive, despite the "silence and secrecy" which your leader today deplores (also letters, February 8).

Your leader of the previous day refers to "earlier and less scrupulous ages" when artworks and antiquities were acquired by shady means unknown to modern inheritors. Less scrupulous ages? To presume progress in probity flatters a present in which Mayan temple facades are ripped off to order, armed robbers dynamite Angkor Wat, the fame of Cycladic figurines has led to the devastation of Dodecanese grave sites, and European States insist that artworks which Nazis took from Jews are their "national" heritage.

Victims' laments are, to be sure, nowadays heeded in UNESCO conventions and in the self-denying purchase policies of major museums. But inflated prices and huge profits in the antiquities and art markets both attest and foment the abuses exposed in the Sotheby's sting.

Until avarice is abolished, spare us such pieties as those of the Secretary-General of the British Antique Dealers' Association, who calls the market "relatively clean and well run" (report, February 7), and of the self-righteous who censure Italy's refusal to export its heritage or England's ready receipt of stolen goods.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID LOWENTHAL
(Author, *The Heritage Crusade and the Spoils of History*),
56 Crown Street,
Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex.
February 8.

TV 'stings'

From Mr John Stenborough

Sir, Sotheby's is merely the latest of a growing number of organisations to find themselves exposed through the use of miniaturised video-recording equipment secretly carried by a journalist.

Surprisingly neither the BBC producers' guidelines nor the Independent Television Commission's programme code deal with the issue of TV journalists sneaking up and filming "sting" operations.

The BBC permits the use of secret cameras on private property where there is "prima facie evidence of crime or significant antisocial behaviour". In addition, programme-makers must convince their employer that the material is "necessary". "Fishing expeditions" (ie, looking for evidence of criminality or antisocial behaviour) are expressly forbidden.

Journalists working under the ITC code merely have to show a public interest justification and the need for secret filming to establish credibility of a story, whether on public or private property. This seems to mean that people engaged in commercial, religious or political activities might find themselves pressured into wrongdoing and then star on prime-time television.

With the advent of these spy cameras the opportunity for abuse is becoming too great. Their use, combined with the role of journalist as bait, is in urgent need of review, either through self-regulation or statute.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STENBOROUGH,
John Stenborough & Co
(Media relations counsel),
7 Herford Street, W1.

Adventurous Digbys

From Mrs Jane Donaldson

Sir, Reading your obituary of Pamela Harriman, nee Digby (February 6), I was struck by the uncanny similarity of her life and character to that of her 19th-century forebear, Jane Digby, the "infamous" Lady Ellenborough.

Both started life at the Digby family home at Minster Magna in Dorset, each had several husbands — Pamela three, Jane four — and many turbulent and not always happy relationships, yet both ended their lives in circumstances of considerable political influence. Jane — after many Continental and Middle Eastern adventures — having settled in Damascus, happily married for nearly thirty years to a Bedouin chief, Sheikh Medjdel el Mazarab, sharing his leadership and the respect of his tribe and playing a diplomatic role between the Christian and Arab communities.

Yours truly,
JANE DONALDSON,
Cattinot Cottage,
Hinton St George, Somerset.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Judiciary and mandatory sentences

From Mr Ian Cook

Sir, In stating that the courts are bound to disqualify a driver who is found to have an excess alcohol level for 12 months, "whatever the circumstances of the offence or the consequences to his livelihood", His Honour Joseph Dean (letter, February 3) seems to disregard Section 34(1) of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988.

That section provides that where a person is convicted of an offence involving obligatory disqualification the court must disqualify for not less than 12 months unless it is satisfied that there are "special reasons" for disqualifying for a shorter period or for not disqualifying at all.

Experience and decided cases show that "special reasons" are seldom found. Nevertheless, when Parliament enacted S34, it expressly reserved to sentencing judges and magistrates a discretion in order that anomalous and unjust sentences, such as are likely to arise under current proposals, may be avoided.

Yours faithfully,
IAN COOK,
1 King's Bench Walk, Temple, ECA,
February 4.

From Mr Robert Milson

Sir, As Lord Donaldson of Lynton points out (letter, February 5), a licence to drive is a privilege granted by the State. It is not unjust for the State to prescribe in advance relevant bad behaviour which will lead to the withdrawal of that privilege. Personal freedom is a right belonging to everyone.

Bloody Sunday

From Mr Aidan O'Connor

Sir, It was with a sigh of despair that I read Mr Andrew Hunter's letter (February 3) concerning a proposed second inquiry into the Bloody Sunday tragedy.

He suggests that we should cease looking backward and rebuild into the future with all the outrages of the past left behind; at first glance a laudable enough aspiration, but his letter has the same flavour as those who opposed the reopening of the Birmingham Six and Guildford Four cases. The British Government and legal system did not suffer unduly when these cases were overturned; on the contrary, a sense of relief and satisfaction was widely expressed when justice was finally done.

On the question of Bloody Sunday, it is high time the British Government came clean on what has transpired to

be a monumental example of injustice to the people of Derry and further afield. In offering advice to Mr John Hume, MP (in whose constituency the events took place and who was personally acquainted with many of the victims), Mr Hunter is seeking to deny the relentless quest for truth and justice. This will not abate until a satisfactory answer and apology are given.

To date, the British Government's position is unconvincing, to say the least. The Bloody Sunday issue is not some petulant sectarian squabble but, as the two MPs said in their letter today, a matter of deeply felt indignation, rooted in the Government's refusal to make a fresh examination of the facts.

Yours sincerely,
AIDAN O'CONNOR,
19 Orlagh Rise, Schanstown Road,
Templeogue, Dublin 16,
February 5.

From Mr Anthony Evans

Sir, Lord Donaldson of Lynton obscures a valid point made by Judge Dean.

Certainly, liberty is a right — but not when the rights of others are repeatedly denied. Justice demands that a repeating offender receives a heavier mandatory sentence than this offence would otherwise attract. Such a sentence should be awarded not only for the offence itself but also for having ignored previous warnings.

It appears to be only their Lordships who are confused on this matter. The public is clearly saying to repeating offenders: "We've had enough, stop now, or else..." The judiciary should endorse that message.

Yours faithfully,
A. EVANS,
136 Cradley Bank,
Chesteron, Newcastle, Staffordshire,
February 5.

Our diocese, like others, has now changed to a system based on church attendance (and electoral-roll numbers) when determining how much each parochial church council is asked to pay towards central costs. This is now a significant disincentive to exaggeration.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ROBINSON,
Hillcroft,
36 Trevelyan Way,
Berkhamshead, Hertfordshire,
February 7.

From the Reverend Dr Tom Ambrose

Sir, Your report today that the Church of England has suffered its biggest fall in Sunday attendance for 20 years leads me to wonder whether previous figures may have been exaggerated somewhat to impress the relevant bishop.

Whether or not such an institution had a regulatory or licensing function, membership of it would certainly be taken into account in assessing teachers' qualifications.

So I very much hope that any future legislation on education will include powers enabling a chartered professional teachers' institution to be set up as soon as practicable.

Yours faithfully,
CALDECOTE,
House of Lords,
February 4.

antibiotics or anti-fungal treatments.

This consultation process could take many months. Until the outcome is known, Triludan remains fully available in the US as, when taken as recommended, there are no new safety concerns over its use.

This is also the view of the UK licensing authorities, as stated correctly in the article.

Yours faithfully,
A. C. EATON
(Director of Public Affairs),
Hoechst Marion Roussel Ltd,
Broadwater Park,
Denham, Uxbridge, Middlesex,
January 30.

From Mr Martin Hasseck

Sir, Although I have an open mind as to whether it should be a criminal offence to deny that the Holocaust took place, I find it disturbing that your correspondent yesterday refers to "the ramblings of eccentrics and extremists" in this context.

Revisionism derives from a well-entrenched machine, constructed by neo-Nazis who believe that Nazism would be attractive if it could only rid itself of its unfortunate association with the death camps.

Your contributor ends his letter by saying that "anything is preferable to the emergence of thought-police and prosecutions for political heresy". If the revisionists were successful we would be in precisely the state he fears.

Yours faithfully,
M. HASSECK,
104 Holders Hill Road, NW4,
February 6.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

The statistics of Sunday worship

From the Chairman of the Church of England Communications Committee

Sir, The latest Church of England attendance figures (reports, February 7 and 10) do look bad, and we must not be complacent about them. But these statistics tell nothing of the positive underlying trends to which clergy and parishioners all over the country testify.

There is plenty of anecdotal evidence of a switch from weekly attendance to less frequent, but just as regular, worship in our churches. Attendance once, twice or three times a month is becoming more common as the freedom to travel, the dispersal of family and friends around the country, and other Sunday pressures increase.

To put the figures into context, a drop of 36,000 in usual Sunday attendances amounts to less than three people for each of our 13,000 parishes. That equals about one family away each week. These changed patterns of attendance need researching to see if it can be established that as many people as before, or indeed more, are coming to church, but less frequently.

Your report mentioned some of the "green shoots" which are undoubtedly visible around the country, but omitted the very significant fact that the numbers of people selected to train for the vitally important stipendiary ministry have increased. Between 1995 and 1996 they went up by 15.8 per cent, from 215 to 249. The total, including non-stipendiary clergy, showed an overall increase of 4.8 per cent from 372 to 390.

Yours faithfully,
TIMOTHY WAKEFIELD,
Chairman,
Church of England Communications Committee,
Bishop's Lodge, Woodthorpe Lane,
Wakefield, West Yorkshire,
February 7.

From Mr Michael Robinson

Sir, Your report today that the Church of England has suffered its biggest fall in Sunday attendance for 20 years leads me to wonder whether previous figures may have been exaggerated somewhat to impress the relevant bishop.

Our diocese, like others, has now changed to a system based on church attendance (and electoral-roll numbers) when determining how much each parochial church council is asked to pay towards central costs. This is now a significant disincentive to exaggeration.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ROBINSON,
Hillcroft,
36 Trevelyan Way,
Berkhamshead, Hertfordshire,
February 7.

From the Reverend Dr Tom Ambrose

Sir, The recently published figures show a large fall in the number of Christmas communicants in 1995. In that year Christmas Eve was a Sunday. Not everyone would want to receive Communion on the Sunday morning, and then again at midnight or on Christmas Day.

At the time there was a lengthy correspondence between Church of England users of the Internet about the disruption to the normal pattern of services when Christmas Eve was a Sunday.

Many churches held fewer Communion services than normal around Christmas 1995. More people were attending non-Eucharistic family services on Christmas Day, or a service of blessing the crib early on Christmas Eve.

Statistics about numbers of worshippers at services like these have never been collected. If they were, they might reveal a small but steady increase in Christmas attendance.

Yours sincerely,
TOM AMBROSE
(Director of Communications,
Diocese of Ely),
The Vicarage, Main Street,
Witchford, Ely, Cambridgeshire,
February 7.

Watching brief

From Mr Michael Sinclair Sutcliffe

Sir, With the formation of a new food safety council or, alternatively, a "food watchdog" or "Off-load" — as suggested by Professor P. L. Lantos (letter, January 31) — the Ministry of Agriculture can now change its full title to something more honest and reflecting its true priorities, namely the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Farmers.

Yours faithfully,
M. SUTCLIFFE,
26 Park Lane,
Southwold, Suffolk,
February 3.

Support deferred

From Dr Peter Jequier

Sir, I intend to vote for the Conservatives at the next general election. They can have 2 per cent of my vote in April and the rest in December.

Yours faithfully,
P. W. JEQUIER,
23 Turkel Road,
Folkestone, Kent,
February 8.

OBITUARIES

JOHN IRWIN

John Irwin, Keeper of the Indian Department at the Victoria and Albert Museum, 1959-78, died on January 23 aged 79. He was born on August 5, 1917.

John Irwin's seminal studies of Indian textiles and his later researches into the roots of Indian artistic expression contributed greatly to Western appreciation of the culture of the subcontinent. In the historical study of Indian textiles, in particular, he helped to transform scholarly understanding both of the Indo-European textile trade and of the complicated mutual interchange of design ideas and motifs between East and West. His lectures on this and other subjects were enthralling. He kept audiences hanging on to his every word as he developed his arguments like the narrative of a detective mystery.

As Keeper of the Indian Department at the Victoria and Albert Museum, he found himself much involved with attempts to find suitable accommodation for the huge body of the collection which had lost its original suite of galleries in buildings behind the Imperial Institute in 1955. The cream of the collection was arranged in three galleries in the V&A, but the rest was divided and housed in various locations. Irwin argued for, and in 1970 became the head of, a new Oriental Department which brought together the Indian section with a new Far Eastern section. Much of his energy during his last years at the V&A, when he was also Senior Keeper and at times deputising for the Director, Sir John Pope-Hennessy, was spent working on a plan, sadly abandoned later, to develop the Huxley building (now the Henry Cole Wing) as an oriental museum.

Although born in Madras, the son

of a coffee planter, John Conan Irwin was still a child when his father retired and returned to England. He spent much of his boyhood in Dorset where, despite a conventional education at Canford School, Wimborne, he nevertheless grew up something of a rebel.

On leaving school he became a journalist, working for a number of newspapers including the *Daily Mirror*, and the *New Statesman* where, under Kingsley Martin, he wrote theatre criticism.

On the outbreak of the Second World War he took a temporary commission with the Gordon Highlanders, but a leg injury sustained in an accident in 1942 while training motorcycle contact officers brought his active service to an end. He was left permanently slightly lame. Irwin was posted back to India as ADC to the Governor of Bengal, Sir Richard Casey. He subsequently served two further Governors as ADC and then as non-political private secretary.

In India he was exposed to the dramatic events of the independence movement, served as secretary to the Bengal Famine Relief Fund in 1944, and formed lasting friendships with Indian scholars and intellectuals. In Calcutta, he also began his career as an art historian, writing jointly with the progressive poet Bishnu Dey the first biography of one of the pioneers of the Indian modern art movement, Jamini Roy.

Returning to England at the end of the war, Irwin joined the Victoria and Albert Museum as Assistant Keeper of the Indian section. Almost immediately he was put to work as executive secretary to the Royal Academy's major exhibition of the *Arts of India and Pakistan*. Initially planned to be held in 1940, the exhibition, which ran through the winter of 1947 until 1948, and its catalogue, have come to symbolise the beginning of a new,



post-independence, era in Western appreciation of Indian art.

During the subsequent period, the study of Indian art history was to be transformed, with the writings of both Indian and British scholars, including Irwin's immediate colleagues at the V&A — W. G. Archer, appointed Keeper of the Indian Department in 1949, and Robert Skelton, Irwin's successor.

On Archer's retirement in 1959, Irwin was promoted to Keeper of the

Indian Section. At first, despite his greater personal interest in sculpture and antiquities, he was put in charge of the department's large and important collection of textiles. The study he carried out on these was to have a major impact on scholarship in the field and also to lead to strong overseas connections.

He was for a long time closely associated with the Calico Museum of Textiles in Ahmedabad, helping it to build its collections, and co-editing

its journal, *The Journal of Indian Textile History*, where much of his textile research first appeared. Irwin's involvement in the Calico Museum was characteristic of a broader sense of responsibility to India. It was he who arranged for an Ahmedabad house front, deemed impracticable for the V&A to keep after the loss of his Indian galleries, to be sold to the Calico Museum, where it formed, appropriately, the façade of the building.

Irwin's textile research resulted in a number of major publications, among them *Kashmir Shawls* (1955) and *Origins of Chintz* (1970). He also produced, with Margaret Hall, the first two catalogues of the Calico Museum's collections, *Indian Painted and Printed Fabrics* (1971) and *Indian Embroideries* (1973).

In his later career, and particularly after his retirement, Irwin embarked on an exploration of the foundations of Indian art, the history, archaeology, and artistic influence of the earliest surviving examples of Indian monumental sculpture in stone — the pillars erected by the Emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century BC. His argument that the origin of many monuments lay in the cosmic religion predating revealed or written traditions, which he also later applied to his study of early Christian monuments, excited immense interest as well as some controversy.

A slim, handsome man, Irwin was a tireless worker, continuing his meticulous and characteristically scholarly research until recently despite the restrictions of ill-health. He leaves a rich legacy both in the two institutions with which he was most closely involved, and through the writings of a vigorous and original mind.

Irwin is survived by his three sons, and by his wife, Helen, from whom he was separated.

BRIAN CONNOLLY

Brian Connolly, singer with the pop group Sweet, died yesterday of renal failure aged 47. He was born on October 5, 1949.

OUTRAGEOUS in facepaint, sequins and towering platform shoes, Sweet were the quintessential Seventies glam rock act. Behind the flamboyant gimmickry was a band playing punchy, well-crafted and amazingly memorable songs. But getting behind the gimmickry was never really the point.

The extravagant frivolity of Sweet's stage act was what mattered, and along with such rivals as Mud, Slade, T. Rex, Suzi Quatro, Gary Glitter and Alvin Stardust — few of whom could match them for tongue-in-cheek excess — they offered a brief, boisterous reminder that pop was supposed to be fun. After the gloomy introspection of much late 1960s rock, it was a reminder that many young fans found well-come. By the time Brian Connolly left the group in 1979, Sweet had sold some 50 million records.

Brian Connolly was born in Hamilton, near Glasgow, perhaps a few years earlier than he liked to admit. He grew up in Blantyre, Lanarkshire, and then, from the age of 12, in Middlesex, where he attended Harefield Secondary School. His family background was confused: having discovered only at 18 that he had been brought up by foster parents, he later learnt that his foster father may have been his natural father after all, and that the actor Mark McManus, who played the television detective Taggart and who died in 1994 aged 59, may have been his elder brother.

Sweet grew out of a group called Wainwright's Gentlemen, in which Connolly and the drummer Mick Tucker formed together in 1966 before forming their own band, Sweetshop, later shortened to Sweet. Sweet released four early singles without success, and it was only when they came into contact with the songwriting team of Nicky Chinn and Mike Chapman that they began to make an impact. Chinn and Chapman dominated the pop charts in the early 1970s, writing for Mud and Suzi Quatro as well as Sweet: on one occasion they had songs simultaneously at No 1, No 2 and No 3, each recorded by a different act.

Chinn and Chapman had a preference for upbeat teen anthems, and they wrote a string of them for Sweet: *Funny Funny*, *Co-Co*, *Poppa Joe*, *Little Willy*. On the B-sides of those catchy, uncomplicated hits, however, the group pursued a more different direction, recording songs they had written themselves and which were clearly influenced by heavy rock. That influence in turn became apparent in the songs written for the group by Chinn and Chapman: his such as *Blockbuster* (No 1 in 1973), *Hell Raiser*, *Ballroom Blitz* and *Teenage Rampage* memorably combined the cheerful banalities of lightweight pop with blistering guitars and a bludgeoning beat.

Sweet enjoyed all the trappings of pop success. At one

stage Connolly had six Rolls-Royces, a mansion in Surrey and a £250,000 yacht, and his drinking partners included Keith Moon, Mick Jagger and Ringo Starr. But like so many pop groups before and since, Sweet eventually began to tire of being screamed at on *Top of the Pops* by teenage girls.

In 1974 they dispensed with the services of Chinn and Chapman and recorded an album, *Sweet Fanny Adams*, it reached No 27 in the charts, but soon disappeared. Further albums followed, but the hit singles became less frequent. The group had succeeded in losing their teenybopper audience, but without attracting an older, more serious following in its stead: their last Top Ten hit was *Love is Like Oxygen* in 1978.

There were personality clashes, too, and Connolly finally walked out of the group in 1979. He initially enjoyed some success as a solo act, but his drinking had by now become excessive, and in 1981 he almost died after suffering multiple heart attacks. His marriage ended in divorce, and his house was sold to meet an enormous tax bill.



Connolly gave up drinking, but his health was permanently impaired: a nervous complaint left him partially paralysed, walking with a limp, his hands violently shaking. But he continued to perform, retaining his trademark long peroxide blond hair and fronting a group he called Brian Connolly and Sweet, reliving his glamorous heyday in small clubs and Butlins holiday camps. Andy Scott, the guitarist whom Connolly blamed for forcing him out of the original Sweet, led a rival version of the group aimed at the same nostalgic market.

That market grew perceptibly in the 1990s, with Seventies nostalgia becoming a highly profitable business and glam rock undergoing something of an ironic revival. Connolly enjoyed the renewed attention from film-makers, journalists and television producers, and the royalties earned when a new generation of performers such as Def Leppard and Pat Benatar covered over versions of Sweet songs. But a documentary about him on Channel 4 last year made it clear that he was far from well.

He is survived by his girlfriend Jean and their young son, and by two grown-up daughters from his marriage.

IVO DE SOUZA



Ivo de Souza, OBE, wartime RAF pilot and Jamaican diplomat, died on January 19 aged 78. He was born in Kingston, Jamaica, on August 24, 1918.

ONE of that brave band of young West Indians who answered Churchill's call to arms in 1940, Ivo de Souza flew many low-level intruder and bombing sorties in Mosquitoes over occupied Europe from 1942 until 1945. After the end of the war, he thought about remaining in the RAF, but new opportunities awaited him. After taking a degree in Public Administration and working for the Jamaican government service he re-

turned to Britain to set up the British Caribbean Welfare Service in 1953.

For the next nine years he headed the service, which dealt with the flow of West Indian immigration that the British Government had encouraged as an answer to labour shortages in the 1950s. In the wake of the Notting Hill riots of 1958 he was a prime mover in setting up the Standing Conference of West Indian organisations, formed in response to the unrest.

After independence, he went on to have a distinguished career as a Jamaican diplomat in the Americas and, finally, in London.

Ivo Seymour de Souza was educated at St George's High

School, Kingston, and after a short period teaching there joined the Jamaican Government Civil Service in 1938. In 1940 he volunteered to join the RAF and after training in Canada was posted to a Mosquito intruder squadron in Britain in November 1942.

From then until the end of the war he served two tours, one in 21 Squadron and the second in 462 (Australian) Squadron, being one of only six of his intake of 60 aircrew to survive that long. He flew strafing attacks on Luftwaffe airfields, patrols over the Normandy beachhead on D-Day and, as a flight commander, took part in the Mosquito raid on the Gestapo HQ in Copenhagen in March 1945 which

completely wrecked the building, destroyed archives which would have compromised the Danish Resistance and killed their custodians.

At the end of the war, on temporary release from the RAF, he took a degree in Public Administration at Manchester University, where he also met and married his wife Joan, in 1949. While at Manchester he was attached to the air squadron and he returned briefly to the RAF after taking his degree. But having decided against a permanent commission, in 1951 he went back to Jamaica and worked for a couple of years in the Ministry of Labour.

But in 1953 he was called back to London where the Colonial Office gave him the task of finding out just how many West Indian immigrants were coming to Britain. The British Caribbean Welfare Service, which he founded, met immigrants at entry ports, made sure they found employment and accommodation and helped them to settle in. De Souza also formed an all-party lobbying group of MPs and local councillors to heighten awareness of the problems of large numbers of immigrants — problems which surfaced most dramatically in the 1958 Notting Hill riots — and counter the increasingly vociferous calls for immigration control. De Souza was head of the welfare service until 1962 and was

appointed OBE for his work in 1960.

In August 1962 he represented the newly-independent Jamaica at celebrations in London and his career was thereafter as a diplomat. He served as Deputy High Commissioner in Ottawa, helping to organise Jamaica's fruit farm workers in Canada. After a spell at the Ministry of Defence from 1962 to 1965, de Souza became High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago and the eastern Caribbean territories, and was energetic in promoting Jamaica's attempts to secure closer economic integration in the West Indies through the formation of the Caribbean Free Trade Association, designed to compensate for the collapse of the West Indies Federation.

From 1974 to 1976 he was Jamaica's Ambassador to Venezuela, Ecuador and Colombia, returning to London to be Deputy High Commissioner, 1977-78. In retirement he was a member of Jamaica's contingent to the team of international observers who monitored Zimbabwe's first elections in 1980. He continued to take an interest in the welfare of the West Indian community in Britain. He had retained his rank as a flight lieutenant, RAFVR, and his funeral was at the RAF church, St Clement Dane's, in the Strand.

He is survived by his wife Joan and by two daughters.

HANNES VAHL

Hannes Vahl, managing director of Siemens UK, 1972-86, died on January 15 aged 73. He was born in Freiburg, Germany, on July 6, 1923.

HANNES VAHL came from a generation of businessmen who spearheaded the postwar German economic revival. His training as an electrical engineer led him to join Siemens in 1948 where his combination of technical and management skills resulted in a rapid rise through the ranks. He served as managing director of the company in Britain

for more than 13 years, during which time he did much to improve Anglo-German trade. In 1986 he became an honorary member of the Anglo-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

By the mid-1950s the Siemens company had largely recovered from the ravages of the war and was seeking to re-establish itself as an international supplier of electrical systems and equipment. Large-scale projects, such as power stations, played an important role in expansion schemes, particularly in the developing world, and in 1954

Vahl was posted to Istanbul, a year later to Lahore and in 1958 to Tehran, where he remained until 1972.

By the time Vahl left Iran, Siemens, well represented in much of the developing world, was looking towards more industrialised countries. The company had enjoyed a long-standing association with Britain, having been in large part responsible for establishing the nascent British electrical industry during the 19th century. So it was that in 1972 Vahl became the managing director of Siemens UK.

He convinced the board of

Siemens — who saw Britain at that time as a strike-ridden country with high inflation and excessive state intervention — that the UK was worthy of sustained investment. He gradually built the company up from small beginnings in offices in Brentford, establishing its first postwar manufacturing facility in Conlepton in Cheshire. Today the company employs some 11,000 people in more than 30 locations.

Vahl became a convinced Anglophile, and after retirement remained in Britain. He is survived by his wife, Inge, and by three daughters.

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ON THIS DAY

February 11, 1964

Fanny Hill was republished in 1970 without further prosecution and is now available in paperback.

You have in fact published a pamphlet protesting against such publications? — Yes, discussing the subject and incidentally protesting.

Mr Pimman said that Fanny Hill had literary and historical merit.

Mr Hutchinson — How does it compare for treatment of the sex episodes with other books which are in circulation?

Mr Pimman — Its treatment is wholesome and successful from the literary point of view compared with a great range of books that are being published today, especially the new fashion for books concerning active homosexuality. There are a great many of these now being widely praised which I think are of poor literary merit partly because they have a corrupting tendency...

Mr Pimman was asked by Mr Mervyn Griffith-Jones, for the prosecution, in what way the book had historic merit.

He replied: "Chiefly I would say that the eighteenth century was an age in which all kinds of mercenary relationships between men and women were part and parcel of the time — that men should have mistresses or should visit brothels was an ordinary routine thing."

"This book does give one not fantastic but on the whole accurate details of the whole financial arrangements and relationship between characters and the type of approach between men and women in that field of life. It was an important field of life in those days."

Mr Hutchinson said that a fundamental misconception of the law by the prosecution in their approach was that they stated that readers who bought the book would not read it as a whole. What the law said was that one had to consider the book and not the motives of the people who in fact bought it...

"It matters not at all from the point of view of this Court what is the motive of anyone who buys it. That is entirely irrelevant, in my submission, to the considerations you have to bring to bear..."

Leading selectors threaten to make it a two-horse race



THE mystery is over. While reading his copy of *The Times* on February 4, it did not take long for one resident of Ickenham, Middlesex, to realise that the phantom Interactive Team Football winner, as advertised last week, was, in fact, himself. John Swirles can now be named, albeit a week in arrears. His team name, however, is still shrouded in mystery.

This week, a Scottish selector has won the £250 prize. Mr K. Gault, of Fochabers, Morayshire, scored 40 points last week, with a team that contained only two English-based players, Beckham and Gayle. That was a sound tactical move, with the Premiership being inactive because of the international match at Wembley tomorrow, although the FA Cup ties from Tuesday involving Premiership clubs did count. The pick of the bunch was Paul Ritchie, the Heart of Midlothian defender, who registered seven points and is the most valuable player in ITF for the week.

The overall leadership has swung back to Mr G. Foster, with his team Sophie And Sam, who moved two points ahead of John Hunt's Taunton D team. Foster and Hunt have waged a good battle for the top spot in recent weeks.

Indeed, those two selectors are just starting to break away from the chasing pack; they themselves would not doubt fall back on the football mantra that "there's still a long way to go", but it does seem that it is becoming a two-horse race for £50,000.



Gayle heads the winner for Wimbledon against Manchester United and helps to make a man of Fochabers happy



If your team could be doing better, you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. You can use the ITF transfer system which

allows you to change up to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or Bell's Scottish League premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 884 643 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 668.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS			
IN			
42005	Sino Valtant	Motherwell	£3.00m
MOVED			
52104	Paul Ritten	West Ham United	£1.50m
	(from Newcastle United)		
OUT			
21503	Paul Beesley	Leeds United	£0.50m
LOANED PLAYERS			
S Hove (Nottingham Forest) to Ipswich, one week; T Wright (Nottingham Forest) to Manchester City, one week; K Scott (Tottenham to Norwich, one week; A Miller (Middlesbrough) to Grimsby, two weeks; M Goldswain (Derby to Oxford United, three weeks; J Lee (Nottingham Forest) to Charlton, three weeks)			
Loan periods subject to fluctuation			

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF
All 1996-7 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tynes Scottish Cup from August 17, count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS SCORED			
Goalkeeper	4pts	Striker	2pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Saves goal	1pt
Saves penalty	1pt	All players	1pt
Full back/Central defender	3pts	Appearance	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Saves last kick	1pt
Saves goal	1pt	Manager	1pt
Midfield player	1pt	Team wins	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt	Team draws	1pt
Saves goal	1pt	Team loses	1pt
POINTS DEDUCTED			
Goalkeeper	2pts	Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender	1pt	Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Saves own goal	1pt
All players	3pts	Team loses	1pt

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
* must have played for 45 minutes in the match



ENTER A NEW TEAM TODAY

THERE ARE BIG PRIZES TO BE WON EVERY WEEK AND EVERY MONTH

The ITF Manager of the Week and the Manager of the Month are up for grabs from now until the end of the season. Enter a team today for your chance to be a winner in 1997. The Manager of the Week or Month can be won by any team no matter where it is in the league, the prize for the Manager of the Week or Month simply goes to the person whose team scores the highest points in any one week or month.

The prize for the Manager of the Week is £250 cash, plus a £250 Sports Gift Voucher for an amateur football team in your community — as nominated by you. The Manager of the Month will receive £1,000 cash.

Enter today by following the instructions below.

Enter ITF by phone on 0891 405 011

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom, call 44 990 100 320

1. You must use a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone).
2. Choose 1 goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 central defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.
3. Do not spend more than £35 million.
4. Do not choose more than two individuals (2 players or 1 player and 1 manager) from any one football club.
5. Once you have chosen your team, call the entry line, above, and follow these step-by-step instructions.

a) You must tap in (not speak) the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your 11 chosen players and your manager.

b) You must speak the name of your team (no more than 16 characters) your name, address, with postcode, and daytime telephone number.

c) Finally, you will be given a ten-digit personal identification number (PIN) at the end of the call. You must keep a note of this number and your chosen team as no postal notification will be sent.

NB: Any new team will only score points on future games.

0891 calls cost 45p per minute cheap rate and 50p per minute at all other times. Your call will cost approximately double if made from a pay phone. In the event of there being more than one Manager of the Week or Month, the winner will be chosen at random. All ITF rules apply, a copy of which will be made available on request.



HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 884 643

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom call 44 990 200 668

You may make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You must use a ten-digit personal identification number (PIN), which you will have to tap in, not speak. Follow the simple instructions and use the five-digit codes of the players you are transferring.

You may only make transfers in one team per telephone call. If you have two teams and want to make transfers in both, you must make two separate calls.

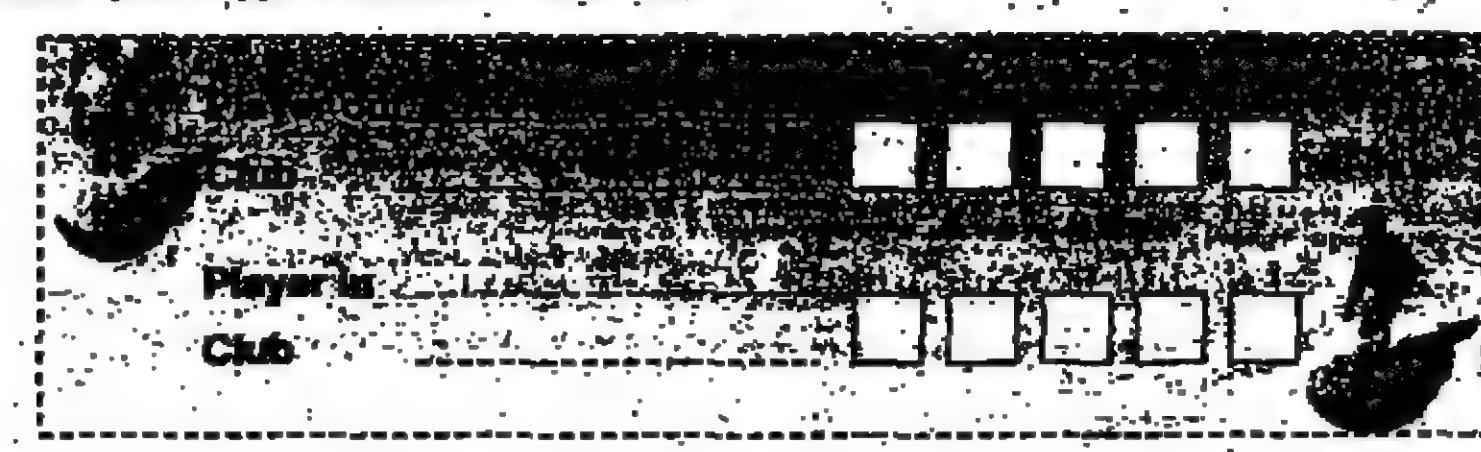
You may transfer two (but no more than two) individuals (two players or one player and a manager) during a transfer week. A player being transferred out must be replaced by one from the same category and you must keep to the team format of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfielders, two strikers and a manager. You must not exceed the £35 million budget and have no more than two individuals from the same club. Incorrect transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form.

The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before noon each day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after noon will become effective for matches played after noon on the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You must adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

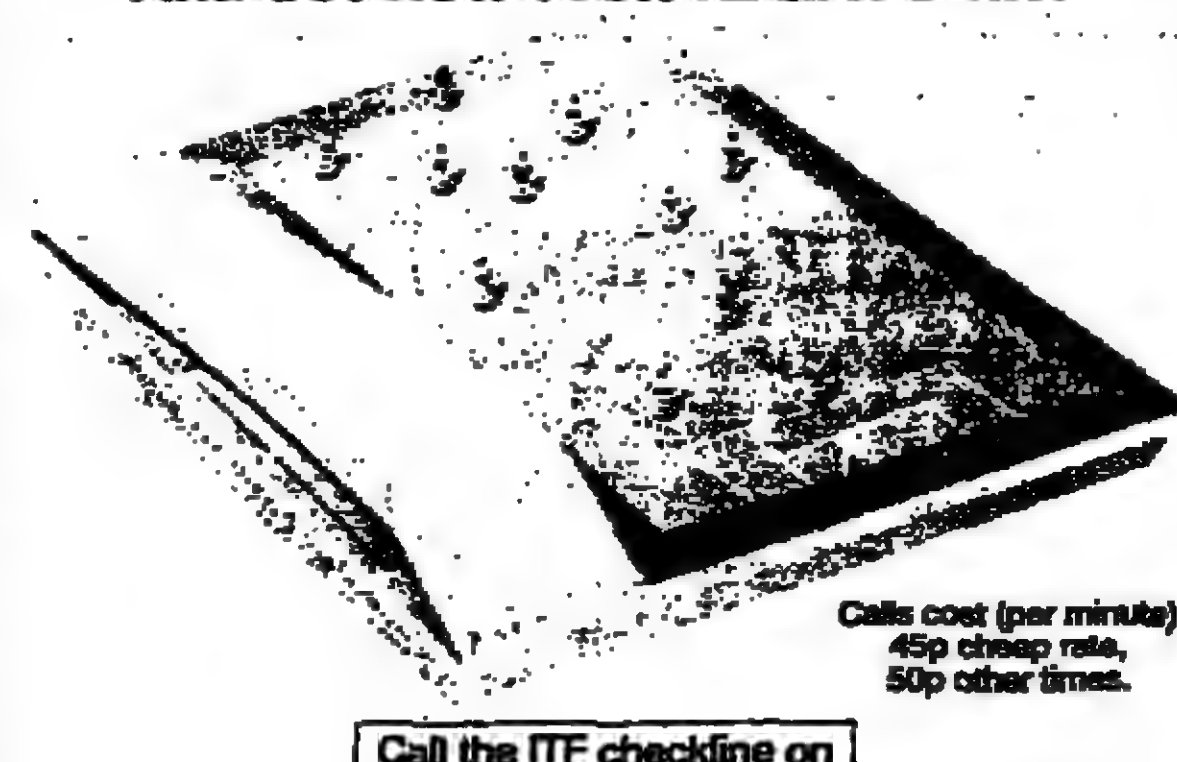
Calls will be charged at 45p per minute cheap rate, 50p per minute at other times. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.



THE LEADING 250 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Sophie And Sam	(G Foster)	58
2	John Hunt Taunton D	(J Hunt)	58
3	Beaston Celtic	(G McGivern)	54
4	James Boys Three	(M Jones)	54
5	John Hunt Taunton H	(J Hunt)	53
6	AD 4	(A Boyland)	53
7	Duggers	(V Cox)	53
8	Nobby	(J Brown)	53
9	James Boys Eight	(M Jones)	53
10	Brain's Team	(B Howes)	53
11	Nobby 33	(J Brown)	53
12	Nobby 4	(J Brown)	53
13	Purple Rain	(B Gohli)	53
14	Edmo Utd	(D Edmondson)	53
15	Nonchalant AFC 3	(R J Ward)	53
16	Jabberwocky	(P A Amos)	53
17	Raj Is Back To Kili 5	(R Gault)	53
18	John Hunt Taunton E	(J Hunt)	53
19	Icarus	(B Wells)	53
20	John Hunt Taunton G	(J Hunt)	53
21	Nobby 11	(J Brown)	53
22	James Boys One	(M L Jones)	53
23	Nobby 32	(J Brown)	53
24	Ph Up Two	(P Tustler)	53
25	Where's Ray Gone?	(P Fromm)	53
26	John Hunt Taunton F	(J Hunt)	53
27	Nobby 21	(J Brown)	53
28	Nobby 29	(J Brown)	53
29	Kinky Imports	(S Fraser)	53
30	Bob's Boys 2	(R Calder)	53
31	Turner's Earners 6	(P Turner)	53
32	Storm	(P Mills)	53
33	Inter The Strand	(R Ward)	53
34	Subwith Utd 5	(M Larcombe)	53
35	Team C	(A Lone)	53
36	Noah's Ark	(G P Dolan)	53
37	Turner's Earners 5	(P Turner)	53
38	Brainbrows United	(G Wells)	53
39	Joking	(P Foster)	53
40	Antonia	(L Clark)	53
41	Murray's Magicians	(M MacMillan)	53
42	James Boys Six	(M Jones)	53
43	Hunter's Mob	(C Hunter)	53
44	Bad Time Boys	(R Crook)	53
45	Always Portugal 1	(V Gilmarees)	53
46	A2	(K Farhall)	53
47	John Hunt Taunton C	(J Hunt)	53
48	Gangsters	(A Lone)	53
49	Boxing Boys	(R Crook)	53
50	Uni Boys Utd 1	(G Gardner)	53
51	12 Angry Men	(D Cook)	53
52	Raj Is Back To Kili 6	(R Gohli)	53
53	Alc	(M Baber)	53
54	Born Losers	(P Farhall)	53
55	Nobby 22	(J Brown)	53
56	Set Against Oye	(S Shipley)	53
57	Tulip's Tops	(D Tulip)	53
58	Turner's Earners 3	(P Turner)	53
59	Alc	(M Baber)	53
60	Partick Bizarro 3	(J Hamilton)	53
61	Thom Footy FC	(M Horn)	53
62	Nobby 14	(J Brown)	53
63	Dear Rangers 3	(R Roberts)	53
64	NST Monksstone	(J Stasiewicz)	53
65	Bob's Boys 4	(R Calder)	53
66	Teddy Three	(B Bate)	53
67	Crooky Boys	(R Crook)	53
68	Blackburners	(P Walters)	53
69	Kingsley 2	(R Roberts)	53
70	Caroline 5	(A Luckhurst)	53

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Call the ITF helpline on 0891 884 643
Outside UK 44 990 100 343

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
71	Nobby 1	(J Brown)	53
72	PJ Thistle	(R Newbould)	53
73	Enid Four	(J Feather)	53
74	BCFC 1988	(J Bithell)	53
75	Nobby 5	(J Brown)	53
76	Ball Watchers	(J Murray)	53
77	Nobby 34	(J Brown)	53
78	Club18-30 Tossa	(A Robson)	53
79	Concrete Barons	(S Mingle)	53
80	JJB Sports	(A Bates)	53
81	You're Not Very Well	(M Corless)	53
82	Inter The Bar	(P Leader)	53
83	Elmhurst United	(P Leader)	53
84	Inter The Waller	(P Leader)	53
85	Gastell	(R Rowe)	53
86	Bob's Boys 1	(R Calder)	53
87	Nobby 23	(J Brown)	53
88	Nell Madrid	(N Ratcliffe)	53
89	Layton's Lions 7	(J Layton)	53
90	Enid 2	(J Hagger)	53
91	Jan 2	(J Clayton)	53
92	Schools For Goals	(K Booth)	53
93	Goediggers	(D Curzon)	53
94	DJS 2	(D Serlton)	53
95	Alcove FC	(A Siffert)	53
96	Langton Longhills	(M Ward)	53
97	Blythe Spartans	(T Blythe)	53
98	Inter The Pub	(M Ward)	53
99	Caroline D	(A Luckhurst)	53
100	C U O K	(G Weiss)	53
101	Nobby 20	(J Brown)	53
102	Triple Top Tan	(P Bailey)	53
103	I Hate Alan Henson	(V Cox)	53
104	Bob's Boys 5	(R Calder)	53
105	It's About Revenge C	(R Calder)	53
106	Nobby 25	(J Brown)	53
107	Nobby 12	(J Brown)	53
108	Rock Bottom	(E O'Gorman)	53
109	Billy No Nails XI	(M Gorman)	53
110	Bob's Boys 3	(R Calder)	53

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
111	Turner's Earners 4	(P Turner)	53
112	Mars FC	(M Baber)	53
113	John Hunt Taunton B	(J Hunt)	53
114	Nobby 7	(J Brown)	53
115	Cardiff Seaside	(J Duggan)	53
116	PJB Rowers	(J Butler)	53
117	RVK 3	(C Vaneza)	53
118	Iwira Best	(L Sampson)	53
119	Xpist Middles	(M Jackson)	53
120	Inter The Unknown	(P Barnett)	53
121	Skyforest	(A Burton)	53
122	Star Chubster	(M MacMillan)	53
123	Trouble Shooters	(P Pitt)	53
124	Def Con 3	(M Pack)	53
125	Raj Is Back To Kili 7	(R Gohli)	53
126	Inter Magic	(J Pringon)	53
127	Football Jockies	(J Medling)	53
128	Alcove	(I Fyfe)	53
129	No Middlefield	(J B Portwood)	53
130	Orvieto Classics	(J Bradshaw)	53
131	Supersubs	(I Taylor)	53
132	Enid United 1	(J Palf)	53
133	Turner's Earners 1	(P Turner)	53
134	Sky Rockets	(K Fairhall)	53
135	The Dummies 1	(D Shiele)	53
136	4 4 2	(K Brown)	53
137	Dynamo Hills	(S Miller)	53
138	March Pass	(M McDermott)	53
139	Kingsbury Tn 1	(D F King)	53
140	Caroline C	(S A Luckhurst)	53
141	Totter Five	(E Kaby)	53
142	Inter The Net	(M Ward)	53
143	Robert's Team 1	(M Roberts)	53
144	John Hunt Taunton A	(J Hunt)	53
145	Man City Free Zone	(D Ingham)	53
146	The Great Drive	(K Booth)	53
147	Agapathus FC	(W Heslop)	53
148	Paradox Eagles	(S Abbott)	53
149	Infinity George	(M Robson)	53
150	Sally In A Towel	(K James)	53
151	Fortune Hunters	(K Farhall)	53
152	Beyond Fault	(P Foster)	53
153	Parus	(W Clarke)	53
154	Enid's Unfinished	(J Kitchin)	53
155	Top Banana	(M Bottomley)	53
156	Sally In A Towel	(K James)	53
157	Enid's 1st XI	(S Balfour)	53
158	Raj Is Back To Kili 8	(R Gohli)	53
159	OCIS-ITF Champ	(M Stadden)	53
160	Murray's Mats	(D Anderson)	53
161	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swires)	53
162	Mean Machine	(P Ford)	53
163	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	53
164	Holmesians	(D Blair)	53
165	Enid's 1st XI	(S Balfour)	53
166	Mans Factory Leaguers	(M Mackden)	53
167	Bob Hope And No Hope	(T Blythe)	53
168	Vat 1	(K Howson)	53
169	Stomach's Sorites	(M Sims)	53
170	Subwith Utd 3	(M Larcombe)	53
171	Lynne's Lions	(L Horne)	53
172	JG18	(J W Goody)	53
173	Rund's Sexy Eleven	(T Eden)	53
174	Come On You Rocks	(no name)	53
175	Demolition Men	(J Murray)	53
176	Jason's Boys Four	(J Gearing)	53
177	Morgans Marauders	(G D Morgans)	53

(Player's name)	Pts
P Turner	476
M Baber	476
J Hunt	475
J Brown	475
Dougherty	475
P J Butler	474
C Vazquez	474
S Sampson	474
M Jackson	472
P Barnett	471
B Burton	471
M Macdonald	470
R Pitt	470
M Pack	469
R Gohill	469
P Pregon	469
J Masling	469
P Ryle	468
J B Portwood	468
J Bradshaw	468
Taylor	468
J Pull	468
P Turner	468
K Farhall	468
D Shields	468
K Browne	468
S Miller	467
M McCosker	467
D F King	467
A S Luchhurst	466
E Kibaly	466
M Ward	466
M Roberts	465
T Turner	465
C Hunt	465
D Ingwin	465
K Booth	464
W Heslop	464
S Abbott	464
M Robson	464
K James	464
K Farhall	464
K Farhall	463
P Foster	463
W Clarice	463
E J Kibhan	463
M Bottomley	463
K James	463
K Howson	463
R Gohill	462
M Stadden	462
D Anderson	461
J Swires	461
P Ford	461
L Luchhurst	461
D Biall	461
S Biall	461
M Madden	461
T Sythe	461
K Howson	461
M Sims	460
M Lacombe	460
D Horne	460
R Luchlyer	460
J W Goody	460
T Eden	459
no name	459
J Murray	459
G Gerning	459
G D. Bennett	459

THE TIMES TUESDAY FEBRUARY 11 1997

The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option



Sullivan's safe hands have been recognised by Scotland. But are you confident in picking him for your ITF team?

10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	-3	-8
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	0	-14
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0	+33
10202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0	-9
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	0	-10
10301	M Boenisch	Aston Villa	3.50	0	+6
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00	0	+19
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+2
10402	S Given	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+4
10501	G Marshall	Celtic	3.50	0	-1
10502	S Kerr	Celtic	3.00	+5	+17
10601	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	-25
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	3.00	0	+3
10603	F Goodes	Chelsea	1.50	-1	-15
10701	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	0.50	0	0
10702	M Taylor	Coventry City	1.00	0	0
10801	R Houtt	Derby County	1.00	0	-12
10802	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0	+4
10901	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	0	-10
10902	N Southall	Dunfermline	0.50	-5	-48
11001	P Gerrard	Everton	2.50	0	-22
11002	G Rousseau	Everton	2.00	+5	-9
11101	J Leighton	Hearts	1.50	+5	-20
11102	D Lark	Hibernian	1.00	-3	-37
11201	D Lelovick	Kilmarnock	1.50	0	+5
11202	M Seavey	Kilmarnock	0.25	0	0
11301	P Evans	Leeds United	2.50	+5	-25
11302	N Martyn	Leeds United	1.00	0	-6
11401	K Poole	Leicester City	1.00	0	-17
11402	K Keller	Leicester City	5.00	0	+23
11501	D James	Liverpool	0.50	0	0
11502	A Warner	Liverpool	5.00	-1	-8
11601	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	1.00	0	+5
11602	R van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.50	0	-23
11701	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-23
11702	A Miller	Middlesbrough	1.50	-3	-28
11801	S Howie	Motherwell	4.00	0	-15
11802	S Heston	Newcastle United	3.00	0	0
11901	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0	-32
11902	A Fettes	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0
12001	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	0.50	-3	-32
12002	S Thomson	Raith Rovers	5.00	+5	-35
12101	A Goram	Rangers	2.00	0	+11
12102	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0
12201	M Clarke	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0	-28
12202	D Beasant	Southampton	0.25	0	-2
12301	N Moss	Southampton	0.50	0	-16
12302	M Taylor	Southampton	1.00	0	-9
12401	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	0	-12
12402	A Cotton	Sunderland	3.50	0	-12
12501	E Sanderson	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
12502	S Maitosko	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	-20
12601	N Sullivan	West Ham United	0.50	0	+3
12602	N Sullivan	West Ham United	1.00	+5	+3
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	0	0
13002	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.00	0	0

20101	S McKinnis	Aberdeen	2.00	0	+8
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	0	+24
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	0	+29
20203	S Morrow	Arsenal	1.00	0	+1
20301	S Sturton	Aston Villa	3.00	0	+31
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	3.00	0	+41
20303	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	0	0
20304	P King	Aston Villa	0.25	0	0
20305	F Nelson	Aston Villa	3.00	0	+28
20401	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+19
20402	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+24
20403	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+18
20404	G Croft	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+2
20501	J McCluskey	Celtic	3.00	0	+18
20502	T McKelvey	Celtic	3.00	0	+13
20601	D Petrescu	Chelsea	2.00	0	+6
20602	S Clarke	Chelsea	1.00	0	+1
20603	S Minto	Chelsea	1.50	0	-8
20701	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.00	0	-4
20703	B Borrows	Coventry City	1.00	0	+12
20704	M Hall	Coventry City	1.50	0	-9
20801	C Powell	Derby County	1.00	0	+4
20802	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	0	+44
20901	M Matpas	Dundee United	0.50	0	+44
20902	M Perry	Dundee United	0.50	0	-7
20903	N Duffy	Dundee United	0.25	0	-7
21001	C Miller	Dunfermline	0.25	0	-2
21002	A Todd	Dunfermline	2.50	0	0
21101	M Hottiger	Everton	2.00	0	+14
21102	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.00	0	-4
20603	T Phelan	Everton	1.50	0	-10
21103	E Barrett	Everton	2.00	0	+12
21201	G Locke	Hearts	1.00	0	+10
21202	N Poulton	Hearts	1.00	0	+4
21301	W Miller	Hibernian	1.00	0	+12
21302	A Dow	Hibernian	0.50	0	-1
21402	G MacPherson	Kilmarnock	3.00	0	+39
21501	G Kelly	Leeds United	2.50	0	+17
21502	A Dorog	Leeds United	0.50	0	+13
21601	P Beesley	Leeds United	1.00	0	+19
21504	G Hall	Leeds United	0.50	0	+6
21601	M Whitlow	Leeds United	0.50	0	+8
21602	S Grayson	Leeds United	0.50	0	-3
21603	N Lewis	Leeds United	0.25	0	0
21604	F Rieking	Leeds United	3.00	0	0
21701	R Jones	Liverpool	1.50	0	0
21702	S Harkness	Liverpool	0.50	0	+42
21703	S Harkness	Liverpool	4.00	0	+33
21801	D Irwin	Manchester United	3.00	0	+31
21802	G Neville	Manchester United	3.00	0	-2
21803	P Neville	Manchester United	3.00	0	-14
21901	N Cox	Middlesbrough	2.50	0	-1
21902	C Morris	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-1
21904	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.25	0	-1
21905	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-1
22006	V Kinder	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	+3
22002	S McMillan	Motherwell	3.00	0	-3
22101	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+13
22102	S Watson	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+2
22103	R Elliott	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+7
22104	J Berrisford	Newcastle United	4.00	0	+11
22201	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	+2
22202	D Lyttle	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	+13
22203	A I Haaland	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	-4
22204	N Jerkin	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	-4
22301	P Bloor	Raith Rovers	0.75	0	-5
22302	D Kirkwood	Raith Rovers	2.50	0	+4
22401	D Robertson	Rangers	2.50	0	0
22402	J Brown	Rangers	1.50	0	+27
22501	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+29
22502	P Atherton	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0	+10
22503	S Nicol	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0	+10
22504	D Stefanovic	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0
22505	I Briscoe	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	-5
22601	J Dodd	Southampton	0.75	0	-10
22602	F Benafi	Southampton	0.75	0	-1
22603	S Charlton	Sunderland	0.50	0	+17
22701	D Kubicki	Sunderland	0.50	0	+8
22702	M Scott	Sunderland	0.25	0	-1
22703	G Hall	Sunderland	1.50	0	-4
22704	F Erickson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	+15
22801	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	+8
22802	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	+8
22803	J Edinburg	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
22804	D Kenzale	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	+15
22805	S Carr	West Ham United	4.00	0	+4
22801	J Dicks	West Ham United	1.00	0	-3
22902	T Breacker	West Ham United	1.00	0	+4
22903	K Rowland	West Ham United	1.00	0	+4
22904	M Bowen	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-6
23001	B Thatchner	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+6
23002	A Kimble	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+20
23003	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-2
23004	D Jupp	Wimbledon	0.25	0	+31
23005	C Perry	Wimbledon	0.25	0	+31

30304	C Tiler	Aston Villa	1.00	0	+19
30305	A Solmeica	Aston Villa	1.00	0	+23
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0	-26
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	-3
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+2
30404	N Marker	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+25
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	1.50	0	+22
30502	M Mackay	Celtic	3.50	0	+14
30503	B O'Neill	Celtic	3.00	0	+2
30601	M Dugher	Chelsea	2.50	0	+22
30602	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	2.00	0	-7
30603	F Stinciar	Chelsea	2.00	0	+3
30604	D Lee	Chelsea	1.50	0	+4
30605	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50	0	+10
30606	E Johnson	Coventry City	2.00	0	+5
30701	L Delish	Coventry City	1.50	0	+8
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
30703	G Green	Coventry City	2.50	0	-5
30704	A Evtushok	Derby County	1.00	0	0
30801	I Stilmac	Derby County	2.50	0	+6
30802	D Wassall	Derby County	1.00	0	+14
30803	P McGrath	Derby County	0.50	0	-4
30804	M Carlson	Dundee United	1.00	0	+48
30901	N Presley	Dunfermline	0.75	-2	-2
30902	I den Bieman	Dunfermline	0.75	-2	-10
31001	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	0	+7
31002	D Watson	Everton	2.00	0	+4
31003	C Short	Everton	1.00	0	+21
31101	D McPherson	Hearts	1.00	0	+22
31102	P Ritchie	Hibernian	0.50	+4	+4
31103	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.75	0	+7
31201	B Welsh	Hibernian	0.50	0	0
31202	G Hunter	Hibernian	1.00	+4	-1
32302	S Dennis	Kilmarnock	1.00	-1	-
31401	M Reilly	Kilmarnock	0.75	0	-
31402	R Montgomery	Leeds United	2.50	0	+2+2
31501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	1.00	0	+
31502	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.00	0	+2
31503	L Fadeshe	Leeds United	0.50	0	0
31601	J Pemberton	Leeds United	2.00	0	+4+1
31602	R Molenaar	Leeds United	1.00	0	+
31603	S Walsh	Leeds United	1.00	0	+
31802	J Watts	Leeds United	0.50	0	+
31803	P Kaemark	Leeds United	1.00	0	+
31804	S Prior	Leeds United	1.50	0	-
31605	M Elliott	Liverpool	3.50	0	+24
31701	P Babo	Liverpool	3.00	0	+14
31703	M Wright	Liverpool	1.00	0	+22
31704	N Ruddock	Liverpool	1.00	0	+
31705	D Matteo	Liverpool	2.00	0	0
31706	B Kvarme	Liverpool	3.50	0	0
31801	G Pailister	Manchester United	3.00	0	+28
31802	D May	Manchester United	2.50	0	-12
31803	R Johnson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-9
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-13
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-14
31903	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-4
31904	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-2
31905	G Festa	Motherwell	1.50	0	-2
32001	B Martin	Motherwell	0.75	0	+3
32002	M van der Gaag	Motherwell	4.50	0	+14
32101	P Albert	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+7
32102	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+12
32103	D Peacock	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0	+1
32201	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0	0
32202	S Chellie	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	-1
32203	S Blatherwick	Nottingham Forest	0.50	0	-1
32301	D Craig	Raith Rovers	0.50	0	0
32302	G Mitchell	Raith Rovers	3.50	0	+48
32401	R Gough	Rangers	3.50	0	+48
32402	A McLean	Rangers	2.50	0	+11
32403	J Bjorklund	Rangers	2.50	0	0
32404	G Peirce	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+29
32501	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+29
32502	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	0.25	0	0
32503	B Lingham	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	-13
32601	K Monkou	Southampton	1.00	0	-2
32602	A Neilson	Southampton	0.50	0	-7
32603	R Dryden	Southampton	0.50	0	-20
32604	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.00	0	+23
32701	S Bisset	Sunderland	1.00	0	+11
32702	A McVie	Sunderland	0.50	0	+22
32703	R Ord	Sunderland	2.50	0	+11
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	0	+8
32802	J Scallan	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	0
32803	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	0
32804	G Mabbitt	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	-6
32901	K Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	0	-1
32902	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	-1
32903	R Vega	West Ham United	2.50	0	+8
32904	S Blittie	West Ham United	2.50	0	+8
32905	M Ripper	West Ham United	1.50	0	
32906	S Potts	West Ham United	1.50	0	
32907	R Hall	West Ham United	0.50	0	
32908	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	0.50	0	
33001	A Reeves	Wimbledon	0.75	0	
33002	A Pearce	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+
33003	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+
33004	B McAllister	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+
33005	E Fitzroy	Wimbledon	0.25	0	+

INSIDE
SECTION
2
TODAY

ARTS

Meet the Japanese
fireball igniting
the Royal Ballet
PAGES 40-42

LAW

O.J.'s case shows
the growing use
of the civil courts
PAGE 33

SPORT

England's triumph
secures leading
role for Atherton
PAGES 43-48TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 11 1997

National Express awarded ScotRail franchise

By JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

SCOTRAIL, the last major unsold British Rail passenger franchise, was awarded to the National Express Group last night by John O'Brien, the franchising director.

The appointment of National Express as preferred bidder came hard on the heels of the award of the West Coast Main Line to Virgin on Friday. It means that all 25 franchises are

almost certain to be in private hands by the election. Talks on the last unawarded franchise, Regional Railways Central, were continuing last night and an announcement is expected today or tomorrow.

North of the border, ScotRail operates all local and commuter (though not daytime) InterCity services over a 1,880 mile network, including the three picturesque Highland lines through remote areas of northern Scotland. It is also

responsible for sleeper services from Buxton station to Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Inverness and the famously reprinted West Highland sleeper to Fort William.

National Express fought off competition from Stagecoach, the Scottish-based bus company, and from a management buyout team. The bid from National Express, which has many coach services north of the border, is sure to face intense scrutiny from the competition au-

thorities. The company is thought to have already held detailed talks with the Office of Fair Trading.

ScotRail is National Express's fourth rail franchise. The company, which also operates buses and coaches, already runs Gatwick Express, Midland Mainline and North London Railways.

Few details of National Express's bid were available last night but it is thought to include plans for new trains and proposals for developing

the huge tourist potential of the West Highland, Far North and Kyle of Lochalsh lines.

In the year to March 31, 1995, ScotRail earned revenue of £86 million, down slightly on 1994, and carried 49 million passengers. The subsidy last year was £251 million and it had 3,977 employees.

The ScotRail announcement came as details emerged of plans for the Regional Railways North East network from the MTL bus company,

which was formally awarded the franchise yesterday. MTL promised commuters in the North of England more regular train services.

The former British Rail passenger network, the twenty-first of 25 franchises to change hands, has been handed to MTL for seven years and one month. All but two of the 25 domestic franchises have now been transferred to the private sector or have had preferred bidders announced by Mr O'Brien.

Output prices
give rate hope
to Chancellor

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE Chancellor's desire to avoid an increase in mortgage rates before the election was given a boost yesterday by what he called "staggeringly low" figures for industrial costs and prices.

British output or factory gate prices rose only 0.2 per cent in January, according to the Office for National Statistics. This was much better than the increase of about 0.5 per cent expected by the City and it gave a year-on-year rise of just 1.5 per cent, the lowest since last October 1986.

Input prices, paid by industry for its fuel and raw materials, fell 0.5 per cent, leaving prices 6.2 per cent lower than a year ago. Sterling's rise appears to be damp-

ing down import prices and the upward effect of last year's spike in crude oil prices is now fading.

Jonathan Lloyes, of HSBC Markets, said the figures were particularly encouraging because January is the month when many manufacturers revise their list prices. He said: "Even a sharp rebound in retail margins as consumer spending strengthens will not prevent underlying inflation from falling sharply this year. Accordingly, these numbers provide further vindication for the Chancellor's decision to leave interest rates on hold."

Separate figures published by the British Retail Consortium yesterday showed that high street spending revived

modestly in January compared with December's disappointing showing. The value of retail sales rose 4.9 per cent compared with a year earlier. The annual rise recorded for December was 4.3 per cent.

Andrew Sentance, chief economic adviser to the Bank of England, said: "Retail spending is not growing so strongly that it poses an inflationary threat. Indeed, inflation is likely to fall back in the short term because of the influence of a strong pound."

The Chancellor has resisted the Bank of England's demands for a rise in interest rates for the past three months, arguing that the pound's rise is a very deflationary force for the economy. Yesterday's producer price figures are likely to strengthen his hand in what is becoming an increasingly public and tense dispute with the Bank which tomorrow publishes its latest Inflation Report. This is expected to emphasise the need to raise rates if the Government is to hit its inflation target.

The pound showed little reaction to yesterday's price figures as attention in the currency markets focused on the dollar, after the Group of Seven meeting in Berlin at the weekend. Sterling's effective index against a basket of currencies slipped a little to close at 97.0 from 97.2 on Friday. It lost a penny against the mark to DM2.7051 but gained a cent against the dollar.

The G7 said in a statement after Saturday's meeting that the dollar's upward correction over the past two years was now complete and suggested that it would now like to see some stability. The dollar came off its recent highs, but the downward reaction was limited and temporary. Hans Tietmeyer, President of the Bundesbank, expressed satisfaction with this, saying that the markets had reacted "appropriately".

In late European trading, the dollar was quoted at DM1.6560 compared with its low in the Far East of DM1.6350. Against the yen, it stood at ¥122.75, having dropped as low as ¥120.40 in overnight trading. Many dealers said that the dollar will remain in demand.

Spending over target, page 26
Janet Bush, page 29

Robinson sells
shares to pay
for house repairs

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

GERRY ROBINSON, the chairman of Granada, yesterday realised £457,000 from selling shares in the company as he raised funds to give his house in the Irish Republic a fresh lick of paint.

Mr Robinson sold 50,000 shares at £9.14 to help to pay for repairs to the house, including renovating a roof.

The shares were part of a personal holding built up since he joined Granada, initially as chief executive, in 1991.

He was previously chief executive of Compass, the catering company, where he built up a stake valued at £3 million after leading a £160 million management buyout from Grand Metropolitan in 1986.

After the sale Mr Robinson continues to hold about 300,000 shares with a market value of £2.75 million. He also holds a total of 1.2 million share options at prices ranging from 184p to 899.5p.

The current potential profit on these options is

£435 million, although only 407,000 at an option price of £1.84 are currently exercisable.

Granada recently ended its option scheme in favour of long-term incentive plan. Last year Mr Robinson received a total salary of £728,000.

Granada shares yesterday closed down 17½p at 895p.



Robinson: £457,000 gain.



Smoking Nicola Mears models her new uniform. Below, the redesigned livery

Mainline colours

MIDLAND MAINLINE, the InterCity rail company operating high-speed services between St Pancras station, London, and cities such as Leeds, Sheffield, Leicester and Nottingham, unveiled its new livery and staff uniforms yesterday. A ten-year franchise for the Midland main line was awarded to the National Express Group last April.

Solid base rate makes
Rock cut cost of loan

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE Chancellor's resistance to an interest rate rise before the election has forced the Northern Rock Building Society to lower its variable mortgage rate by 0.2 per cent.

The cut, to 7.29 per cent from March 15, brings the society into line with most other lenders and affects more than 300,000 borrowers.

In December, the Northern Rock announced a 0.5 per cent increase in its base rate to 7.79 per cent.

The society had anticipated a further rate rise, but concedes that this is now unlikely.

Adam Appleburgh, director, said: "If the situation had gone on much longer, we would have started to become uncompetitive. Government policy on interest rates is always difficult to second-guess and this has become even harder as policy seems to be influenced by political considerations more than economics."

People who have had loans for more than seven years keep a 6.99 per cent loyalty rate.

Lanica shares suspended

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SHARES in Lanica Trust, the investment vehicle of Andrew Regan, the entrepreneur, were suspended yesterday as the company confirmed its involvement in plans to buy a large slice of Britain's two main co-operative retailers.

Co-operative Retail Services and the larger Co-operative Wholesale Services are both believed to have received shares yesterday from a company named Galileo, which is believed to be the investment vehicle set up by Lanica and other City investors to make the

acquisitions. Mr Regan is believed to want to raise up to £500 million to buy a range of CWS and CRS's non-food retailing businesses, ranging from funeral services to opticians. The faxes suggest that the plans are not yet finalised.

CRS and CWS seemed unlikely to co-operate with Mr Regan. CWS wrote yesterday to reassure members that it "has no plans to dispose of CWS businesses or assets to him (Mr Regan) or his investment company". Harry Moore, CRS chief executive, said: "CRS is very

sceptical about this story, and, as we understand that Andrew Regan is about to go on holiday, we must assume that it cannot be an urgent matter for him either."

A spokesman for Mr Regan confirmed that he is due to go on holiday today. The Stock Exchange is believed to be investigating the leak to a Sunday newspaper of the intended approach, and the suspension of Lanica's shares, at £19.50, may be reconsidered.

Pennington, page 27

BUSINESS
TODAYSTOCK MARKET
INDICES

FTSE 100	4307.7	(-0.1)
FTSE All share	2100.58	(+0.08)
NASDAQ	18101.77	(+314.13)
New York	8848.98	(-4.82)
Dow Jones	788.24	(+0.88)
S&P Composite		

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.75%)
Long Bond	6.70%	(6.71%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	5.75%	(5.75%)
3-mth long bill	112.25	(112.25)
Future (Mar)		

STERLING

New York	1.6387	(1.6304)
London		
\$	1.6334	(1.6235)
DM	2.7658	(2.7147)
FF	9.1316	(9.1350)
SF	2.3225	(2.3405)
Yen	200.63	(202.37)
£ Index	97.0	(97.2)

DOLLAR

London	1.6387	(1.6304)
DM	2.7658	(2.7147)
FF	9.1316	(9.1350)
SF	2.3225	(2.3405)
Yen	200.63	(202.37)
£ Index	97.0	(97.2)

Tokyo close Yen 123.20

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr)	\$20.25	(\$20.05)
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GOLD

London close	\$341.15	(\$340.45)
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* denotes midday trading price

Mother of
three sued
by Coutts

COUTTS, bankers to the Queen, is trying to bankrupt a mother of three because of her husband's debts (Caroline Merrell writes).

The bank, believed to have waived £500,000 of charges on the Duchess of York's £42 million overdraft, is taking Rebecca Mills of Chepstow, Monmouthshire, to court on Thursday.

Mrs Mills, 41, who is on income support, could end up losing her home, worth about £70,000. Seven years ago she signed over the house in which she now lives, to her husband's business, along with another property. The business collapsed with debts to Coutts of £172,000.

Mrs Mills is now separated from Sebastian Mills, her husband, who is living abroad. She said that there was already an outstanding debt to Barclays on the property. Coutts declined to comment.

JOHN BETJEMAN.

Author of *Summoned by Bells*.

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Small firms' leaders fight red tape with Labour

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BUSINESS leaders are to hold talks with Labour on new ways of cutting red tape. Leaders of Britain's main business bodies with an interest in small firms have agreed to meet Labour to begin work on how regulators and inspectors at local level can work with business to reduce burdens on small companies.

Officials of the Federation of Small Business, the Forum of Private Business, the British Chambers of Commerce, the Institute of Directors and the Confederation of British Industry will join Labour leaders and local authority representatives to look at practical measures to reduce regulatory visits and form-filling.

Significantly, all these business organisations agreed to details of their participation being included in Labour documents published yesterday as part of the party's launch of its new strategy for small firms. Labour explicitly gave the source of aspects of its small firms policy as being ideas from business bodies.

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, announced that a Labour Government would revamp the present deregulation task force by giving small firms a much stronger voice on it. "We aim to ensure half the members of the taskforce represent small business, so that it responds to their needs and not just those of larger firms," he said.

Claiming that Labour is now the "party of small business", Mr Blair emphasised Labour's commitment to greater economic stability as a way of

protecting small firms, and said: "We want Britain's small businesses to succeed. And we are determined a new Labour Government will give them the backing they deserve."

Business bodies such as the Forum for Private Business and the IoD welcomed Labour's move, with some even forbearing to criticise some other Labour policies, including a minimum wage and Labour's intention to sign the European social chapter. Mr Blair said that many small firms would benefit from both policies.

However, Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, accused Labour of trying to dupe small firms into thinking that its policies were "benign". Accusing Labour's policies of being a "catalogue of calamities" for small firms, Mr Lang said: "While Labour pretends to be small firms friendly, their policies are a menace to small business, and are rejected by most small business themselves."

Citing Labour policy on minimum pay and the social chapter, Mr Lang said: "If Labour want to be business friendly, they must adopt policies which are in line with what small businesses want. Deceptive flannel won't wash."

Britain's chambers of commerce will tomorrow set out what they want to see from the next Government, though they will be careful not to give support to any particular political party.

Your Own Business, page 20



Colin Smith, left, Sir Alistair Grant, centre, and David Webster, deputy chairman

Financial moves heat up store wars

By Sarah Cunningham

THE RACE between supermarket groups to move into financial services gathered pace yesterday as Safeway launched a debit card and J Sainsbury said it had been granted a banking licence.

Safeway's ABC Bonus Account card, which customers will be able to use from early next month, will pay 5 per cent gross interest on balances up to £600. Above £600, it pays only 1 per cent — a rate structure intended to discourage customers from holding too much on deposit. The card, an extension of Safeway's ABC loyalty card, is operated in conjunction with Abbey National, which will manage the scheme.

Tesco's Clubcard Plus, also a debit card and the first to be brought out by a supermarket, pays 5 per cent on all balances. Unlike the Tesco card, the ABC card will not offer overdrafts although Safeway, of which Sir Alistair Grant is chairman and Colin Smith chief executive, is expected to introduce an overdraft facility and a credit card by the end of this year.

The Safeway debit card can be used to pay for goods and services at Safeway's 380 stores and 70,000 other outlets that accept Visa's Electron, online debit card. These include C&A, Lillies, and Our Price. Phone banking is also available. As a launch incentive, Safeway is offering 500 ABC bonus points and 12 weeks of double points.

Sainsbury is expected to launch its bank by the end of this month. It will own a 55 per cent stake and Bank of Scotland 45 per cent.

Safeway shares, which fell sharply on Friday after it reported disappointing trade last month, lost another 4½p yesterday and Sainsbury ticked down a ½p to 320½p.

Avis Europe growth to be funded by float

AVIS EUROPE, the car rental group, aims to raise £250 million in a flotation that will offer novel benefits to investors. People who buy at least £1,000 worth of shares and hold them for more than three months will be eligible for a free rental car. Investors will become members of the Avis Europe Founders Club and "entitled to special benefits and a range of discounts in accordance with their status as 'founding' shareholders". Members will receive vouchers for an extra free rental day for every two paid days, and other discounts.

Avis — separate from the US company of that name — is likely to have a market value of about £700 million. Most of the £250 million will be used to expand rental activity in western Europe, with a smaller amount invested in building up a hire network in eastern Europe and in Asia. Some of the funds will be used to repurchase the 14.2 per cent stake held by General Motors and to reduce Avis's £500 million of debts. In the six months to August 31, Avis Europe achieved operating profits of £54.2 million, 16.3 per cent up on the same period the previous year. Alan Cathcart, chairman, said that flotation would allow Avis to capitalise on market opportunities in existing areas and fund expansion into emerging markets.

Ionica considers float

IONICA, the wireless telephony company, said it is "certainly possible" that it will list its shares on the Stock Exchange by the end of the year. Its original business plan called for a flotation by the end of 1995, but it took longer to launch commercial operations than expected; they began six months ago. The statement came as Ionica, whose shareholders include Yorkshire Electricity, Northern Electric and Morgan Stanley, the US investment bank, said it was expanding its operations from its base in the East of England into the Midlands.

Lynx team plans buyout

THE management of Lynx Express, the parcels business that is owned by NCC, is planning a buyout of the company, it was announced yesterday. NCC said that it was in talks with NatWest Ventures, the venture capital house, "which may lead to the disposal" of Lynx. Lynx had net assets of £25 million at the September 30 year end, and turnover of £94 million. NatWest Ventures is conducting due diligence checks and no further announcements are expected for several weeks.

Zeneca given go-ahead

ZENECA, the pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals group, received approval yesterday from the Environmental Protection Agency of the US to sell Azoxystrobin, a fungicide based on naturally occurring compounds found in mushrooms. The product, whose commercial name is Heritage, will be launched this month and will be used on turf grass, a market valued at \$150 million a year. Azoxystrobin was approved in Germany last year and registrations in all major world markets are expected over the next 12 months.

Fund to back Balkans

THE first investment fund specialising in the Balkans and South-Eastern Europe is to be launched by Regent Pacific. The fund, which is likely to be an offshore company registered in the Cayman Islands, will seek to raise about £60 million from institutional investors. It will aim to buy stocks in potential blue chip companies. Regent Pacific said that the most attractive countries in the region include Romania and Croatia, with Albania and Bosnia at the other end of the scale.

Treasury's sale to raise £1.5bn

By Jason Nisse

THE Treasury is to receive a £1.5 billion boost to its finances in the next seven weeks after agreeing to sell its housing association loan book to NatWest Markets, the merchant banking arm of NatWest.

The final price will not be determined until the deal is completed late next month, but NatWest admitted it was paying a substantial premium to the book value of the loans, which stands at £965 million.

This is because the long-term loans given to 1,000 housing associations to flesh out Government grants are at fixed interest rates, which average just over 11 per cent, compared with base rates of 6 per cent and average variable mortgage rates of 7.25 per cent.

Eight express ScotAm interest

By Robert Miller, Banking Correspondent

ABBEY National and the Prudential, the two leading contenders to buy Scottish Amicable, were last night due to sign confidentiality agreements with SBC Warburg, the City adviser to the mutual insurer.

Up to eight potential bidders, including Fortis, the Dutch insurer, and the Australian Mutual Provident, are believed to have contacted Warburgs to express a serious interest in buying Scottish Amicable. The Warburgs team, led by Jack Birney, has drafted in Michael Kershaw, an executive director of the corporate finance division, to help to assess submitted bids.

The rival bidders will now be given access to confidential financial information on Scottish Amicable, although only four are finally expected to table bids. Any successful offer is likely to be in the range of £2 billion and be accompanied by reassurances on jobs.

Abbey, where Peter Birch is chief executive, was rumoured to have upped its £1.4 billion bid to £2.2 billion, way ahead



Birch: offer speculation

Miners at RJB vote against pay strikes

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

MINERS at RJB Mining, the UK's largest coal producer, have voted against a series of strikes over pay by nearly two to one.

The National Union of Mineworkers had to reballoon its members on industrial action after a strike mandate before Christmas was thrown out by the High Court because of balloting irregularities. The ruling came after the discovery that not all NUM members had received ballot papers, and that voting documents had gone to some people who were no longer union members.

Miners voted 1,908 to 1,037 against strike action over pay levels and conciliation on a turnout of more than 70 per cent. RJB declared the result a victory for the long-term future of the industry. A spokesman said: "Mineworkers are aware of the challenges facing the coal industry and that their future security depends on maintaining reliable supplies of competitively priced energy."

The NUM concentrated the second ballot on only RJB members after the Christmas ballot had included workers at the Mines Rescue Service and Mining Scotland, which is partly owned by the NUM.

RJB, which employs 9,500 people at its 19 collieries, has changed the pay structure for miners by introducing 20 pay grades to five and freezing salary increases of some of the higher paid grades. It said its last pay awards were skewed to benefiting the lower-paid levels.

Spending plans £14bn over target

By Janet Bush, Economics Editor

THE Government's programme for reducing the public deficit is not credible, largely because its spending plans are too optimistic, according to the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

Martin Weale, the institute's director, argues that an additional £14 billion would have to be raised from a mixture of spending cuts and tax increases if the public finances were to be restored to a sustainable level. The £14 billion figure is derived from his estimate that Britain faces a structural budget deficit as opposed to a cyclical deficit, related to the stage of the economic cycle of about 2 per cent, equivalent to £14 billion.

He said: "For the past three or four years, the Government has said that the budget deficit would be erased in four years' time. It seems to be following a strategy each year of punting off by one year the date at which it gets to budget balance."

The National Institute started cautioning about the unsustainability of the public finances last October and Mr Weale is due to repeat these strictures in a paper that he is delivering to a conference on March 17, hosted by the Economic and Social Research Council.

Mr Weale said yesterday that his calculations imply that, whichever party is in power, the future Government may have to raise taxes by as much as £10 billion. However, he said that this figure depends entirely on the view which is taken of the Government's current public spending plans.

He takes the view that the Government's existing spending plans are not believable.

On the other hand, Mr Weale said that concerns on the revenue side of the public finance equation had been overstated and that there were obvious ways of raising extra funds. One possibility would be to abolish mortgage interest relief altogether, which would raise about £5 billion.

Top directors enjoy better pension deals

By Gavin Lumsden

DIRECTORS at Britain's top companies get twice the amount of their salaries paid into pension schemes as ordinary employees, a new survey has revealed. The survey found that companies pay about 35 per cent of directors' pay into pensions schemes, but 17 per cent for the rest of their workforce.

The survey by Lane Clark & Peacock, an actuarial firm, looked at the practice of 99 companies in the FT-SE 200 and 22 multinationals. It is certain to fuel the controversy over directors' remuneration.

Assuming each company has six executive directors on an average salary of £140,000, corporate Britain is spending more than £39 million on funding future pensions for just 800 people. The survey found that while some companies rewarded directors with only 12 per cent of pay, others paid 63 per cent of pensionable pay.

Major urges firms to look at Latin America

By Oliver August

UK businesses were yesterday urged by John Major to seek links with Latin America, the world's second fastest growing region after South-East Asia.

The Prime Minister, launching a government campaign to raise inward investment and exports in an area in which the UK is trailing continental European competitors, said: "British businessmen may be looking at the region for the first time. You are right to do so."

Brazil's GDP is of the same

order of magnitude as China's and 50 per cent larger than India's, Mr Major said.

The main reason for British scepticism about investing in Latin America was rampant inflation. However, the average inflation rate has fallen from 340 per cent to 25 per cent in the past two years.

The Government is organising campaign roadshows, the first of which has brought Latin American businessmen and ministers to London this week.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.04	2.06
Austria S	13.82	14.42
Belgium Fr	68.60	69.20
Canada \$	2.310	2.350
Cyprus Cyp£	0.838	0.783
Denmark Kr	10.63	10.23
Finland Mk	8.56	7.91
France Fr	6.55	6.55
Germany DM	8.44	8.44
Greece Dr	441	415
Hong Kong \$	12.28	12.28
Iceland	120	103
Ireland Ir£	1.07	0.98
Israel Sh	5.70	5.58
Italy Lit	2788	2825
Japan Yen	214.20	198.40
Korea Won	0.023	0.039
Netherlands Gld	3.172	2.942
New Zealand \$	2.52	2.39
Norway Kr	11.15	10.35
Portugal Esc	201.00	202.50
S Africa Rd	7.81	7.61
Spain Ptas	236.50	221.50
Sweden Kr	12.57	11.77
Switzerland Fr	2.45	2.27
Turkey Lira	204,000	190,000
USA \$	1.728	1.596

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Tobacco firms challenge FDA

By Alasdair Murray

TOBACCO companies yesterday began a legal battle to try to undermine powers given to the Food and Drug Administration in the US to regulate the industry.

The industry is angry that the FDA has been given the right to define tobacco as a "drug" and make regulations accordingly. The first restrictions, which include a ban on free samples and advertising near schools, are due to come in at the end of February. Lawyers representing the

main tobacco companies claimed in their opening remarks that the FDA was seeking powers that could ultimately be used to shut down the industry. The tobacco companies hope to prove that the FDA is violating its mandate in trying to regulate the industry. A preliminary decision is expected in the next two weeks.

BAT Industries, meanwhile, moved to clarify comments made at the weekend that it would consider a permanent

settlement to the litigation battles being fought by Brown & Williamson, its main tobacco subsidiary, across the US.

The company said it would consider any reasonable moves to end the battles but that plans for a global settlement have not been put to the company at this stage. It added that, for the moment, it would continue to fight in the courts and was confident of winning all existing cases.

Pennington, page 27

THE TIMES

100

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□ Labour's windfall plans could fall foul of the EC □ US deal on tobacco looks unlikely □ Galileo faces Exchange inquisition.

Taxing the patience of Brussels

LABOUR'S windfall tax is in trouble again, with a most unlikely ally. The Eurocrats, who might be regarded as Tony Blair's natural allies, have their doubts. Their argument, which would put Gordon Brown as a Chancellor levying tax on utilities on their "excess" profits on collision course with the Treaty of Rome, is all to do with state aid to industry.

This is verboten under Euro-law, which is not to say it does not happen but that it causes no end of expensive wrangling when it does. We have looked before at the question of which companies are utilities. Labour is not sure, and it is a matter of dispute between Brown, who favours hitting anything vaguely resembling one, and Blair, who has already chummed up with two borderline cases, British Airways and British Telecom.

But European law, paradoxically, would require the tax to be levied as widely as possible, or risk being ruled unfair. A confidential note from the competition authorities in Brussels to the European Commission office in London makes this clear.

There is no such thing as negative state aid, it says, whereby one company is taxed by the member government. Instead this comprises positive aid to that company's competitors if these escape untaxed. This is perfectly

logical: penalise metal-basher A financially, and metal-basher B has a clear advantage in the markets where the two compete.

Brussels points out that if the windfall tax is levied on all companies within a market, this is fair. There is no reason to extend the tax to other industries. But if the tax goes on privatised companies and not their competitors, it aids the latter, and this is unfair. The Commission note makes this quite clear. The implications for any tax could be disastrous.

There is no problem in real monopolies such as water and power distribution — except that these would not produce the sums Labour wants. But consider three key industries. In telecoms, a tax on BT would logically require one on Mercury — part of Cable and Wireless, itself, note, a privatised company. And how about Vodafone, in competition with BT's land lines?

In airports, if you tax BAA, owner of Heathrow and Gatwick, you presumably have to tax Preston, which it does not own. How about Paris and Schiphol, which compete for the

transatlantic trade? And P&O's Dover terminal?

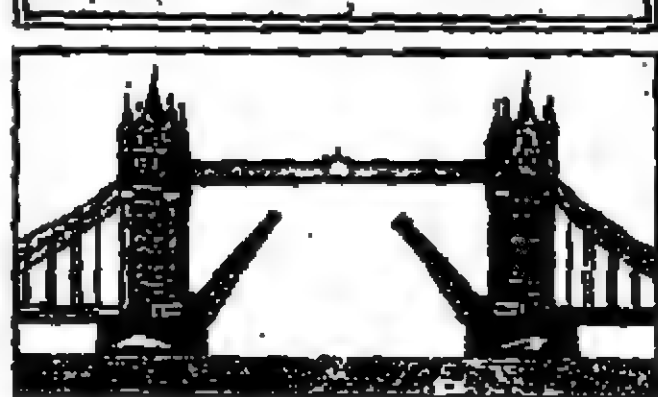
In power generation, included in Labour's tax plans, there are currently 20 companies selling electricity. Tax the three biggest, National Power, PowerGen and Nuclear Electric, and you have to hit the small gas-fired stations and Enron's plant on Teesside.

You also have to tax another contributor to the nation's power needs. About 2,000 MW, enough to supply two million people, comes across the Channel, generated by state-owned Electricité de France. Oh to be a *mouche sur le mur* when that tax bill arrives from perfidious Albion.

No smoke without ire

THE latest attempt to extract Danegeld from US tobacco companies such as Brown & Williamson, owned by BAT Industries, looks like going nowhere. Martin Broughton, BAT's chief executive, has said he might consider some sort of final settlement to the endless litigation in the US. The prob-

PENNINGTON



lem, as ever when paying off the Danes, is the definition of final.

The US tobacco industry makes about \$6 billion in profit each year. Sighting shots from the various attorney-generals suing the industry suggest this is about what would have to be handed over into a special fund in exchange for a guarantee of no further law-suits. This is clearly unacceptable to the industry, which spends about \$500 million a year on litigation, so any settlement would have to be somewhere between these poles.

Suppose a deal could be reached between the two, whereby 10 per cent or whatever of profits went into a fund compensating victims of smoking and reimbursing the states

themselves for their spending on Medicaid. The difficulties are still enormous. The companies would not be allowed pass this extra hidden tax on to their customers; does this mean some sort of price controls?

It would need legislation in Congress, supported both by the Republicans, some of whom are ideologically opposed to such state intervention, and the Democrats, the extreme wing of whom would like to see cigarettes taxed out of existence. Then it would need the support of all the states themselves.

It would then be open season for every clever lawyer in America to prise open the limits of such a "final" settlement. The cigarette companies are asking for a promise that the authorities, because no one can control the insanely litigious culture in the US, are unable to deliver on.

Consider this statistic. In 1995, the last year of record, Brown & Williamson spent \$50 million on litigation.

Farmers, BAT's insurance business, spent ten times as much, because two American motorists cannot bump fenders

without screaming for their lawyers. And for sheer rapacity, US lawyers leave the average honest Viking raider for dead.

Lanica leak lamentable

ANDREW REGAN'S reputation as a *wunderkind* has taken a bit of a battering. The Stock Exchange is examining the apparent leak of plans by Lanica Trust, his company, to buy parts of the Co-op. One hopes that the authorities will not have to waste too much time. Only a handful of institutions who had agreed to back him knew of the plans, and Mr Regan will presumably co-operate to the full in handing over their names.

He has been made to look silly by the snap response to the news from the twin arms of the Co-op, which can be broadly summarised as "Andrew who?" His shareholders may be locked into their investment for an undefined time, which will not make him popular with them. And his credibility will not be enhanced because less than a

month ago Lanica was forced to say it knew of no reason for rises in the share price — and by implication, that no big deal was in the offing.

His company's only existing venture, an as yet unproven catalogue deal with the Naafi, might be worth £20 million to £30 million, if you are feeling generous. Yet Lanica was capitalised at a short £100 million when the Stock Exchange pulled the plug on share trades. If the Co-op deal fails, the shares can only fall. The leak makes the deal more difficult to achieve.

The vehicle in talks with the Co-op is codenamed Galileo. Lanica says there was no deliberate leak, and indeed if there was it has backfired horribly. As the real Galileo is supposed to have said, *eppur si muove* — yet it moves. And yet it leaked.

Bank error

THE National Consumer Council says the poor earn less from their savings than the well-off. They also tend to exit the supermarket with less in their trolleys; research even suggests they live in smaller houses. No one keeps their money in a bank account for the interest. They keep it there because it is less likely to be stolen than if, in the NCC's words, the cash is stuffed under the mattress.

Biotech sector rallies after Peptide deal

By ERIC REGULY

THE biotechnology sector rallied yesterday after Peptide Therapeutics, the Cambridge company that specialises in allergy treatments, announced its second licensing deal since January.

SmithKline Beecham, one of the world's largest pharmaceutical groups, has agreed to put £6 million into Peptide in exchange for exclusive worldwide marketing rights to its portfolio of allergy vaccines.

Of this amount, £2.4 million is cash and the rest is through the purchase of a million new ordinary Peptide shares at 360p each. This will give SB 2.8 per cent of Peptide's enlarged share capital. Peptide could receive another £24 million in licence and "milestone" payments, raising the total to

£30 million, depending on the progress made in developing the anti-allergy drugs.

The equity investment represents a premium of 16 per cent over the average price of Peptide shares in the five trading days to the end of last week. The shares, sold at 200p in late 1995, closed at 369p, up 40p, to set a new high.

Shares of other biotech companies rose on expectations that more licensing deals with large pharmaceutical companies are in the offing. British Biotech closed up 9½p to 240p, Chiroscience up 19p to 357½p, and Cantab Pharmaceuticals up 7½p to 835p.

If the allergy drugs reach the market, Peptide will receive royalty payments on sales. The company provided

no details on the royalties, but noted that the global market for such vaccines is valued at about £5 billion a year.

Peptide's vaccines have the potential to protect against a broad range of allergies, including hay fever, and food allergies from shellfish, nuts and the like.

The most severe form of allergic response is anaphylaxis, which can be fatal. An estimated seven million people in Europe and North America are said to be potential anaphylaxis victims. Another 66 million suffer from allergic rhinitis, which includes hay fever.

Peptide said that the first of the allergy vaccines could be on the market in 1999.

In January, Peptide formed

an alliance with Medeva to research and develop non-injectable vaccines. The four vaccines under initial development are designed to treat typhoid, flu, tetanus and diarrhoea. Medeva agreed to take a 2.5 per cent stake in Peptide at 340p a share, for a total investment of £3 million.

The SB and Medeva payments will provide cash when Peptide needs it most. At the start of 1996, the company had £27 million in cash and was spending £7 million a year on research and development.

The oral typhoid treatment, is in phase one trials. Two others, the allergy drug and a rheumatoid arthritis one are in phase two trials.

Tempus, page 28

Shares fall as troubles hit VDC

SHARES of VDC lost 40 per cent of their value yesterday after the veterinary and dentistry supplies group gave warning that a computer error had led it to overstate its interim profits by £240,000 (Fraser Nelson writes).

Roland Denning, chairman, said the bug had caused sales to be overstated by about 2 per cent. The company plans to increase prices to overcome the shortfall.

Mr Denning said that the dentistry arm was still hit by problems and that group profits for the year would be significantly below the £2.7 million expected by the City.

Its shares on the Alternative Investment Market plunged from 275p to 165p yesterday, although none changed hands.

Toad tumbles as chief resigns after 27 days

By FRASER NELSON

SHARES in Toad, the car security group headed by Chris Evans, the biotechnology tycoon, slumped to an all-time low yesterday when the chief executive resigned after only 27 days in the job.

Charles Parker, who left Charter to become chief executive of Toad, was recruited to help the company to raise £7 million in a rights issue at the end of last year. His exit stunned the market, sending Toad's shares tumbling from 61p to 41½p. The rights shares were issued at 80p.

Dr Evans, Toad's founder, said the split had come after irreconcilable differences about management style, and on the company's future. He added that Toad's sales over December and January were significantly below budget.

Dr Evans, non-executive chairman, said Mr Parker



Evans: seeking replacement

had felt too much of a cultural difference in coming from Charter, a £666 million industrial company, to Toad, which is not expected to become profitable until next year.

He said: "We spent five months interviewing him, he did months of his own due diligence, and we told him

everything he wanted to know about the company. But after he joined, he told me that he'd made a mistake and said he wanted to leave."

He played down the trading report, saying that December and January were traditionally poor months, and that sales were still higher than last year. He said the company was still on course to break even next year, and would have no difficulty attracting a replacement for Mr Parker.

"I've got the best headhunters in the land working on it, and I'm already taking calls from people who want to become the new chief executive," he said. "We will consider them — that is an entrepreneurial thing to do."

Toad, which joined the Alternative Investment Market in 1995, is shifting from retail to the corporate market.

Tempus, page 28



Andrew MacKenzie said the recovery was enticing people who had been content to rent

Bryant gets boost from older buyers

By FRASER NELSON

THE older age profile of the current crop of first-time buyers has given a boost to Bryant, the housebuilder that concentrates on three and four-bedroom houses.

Andrew MacKenzie, chief executive, said the recovery in the housing market had encouraged the return of first-time buyers who have been renting for the past few years, and are able to afford to enter the market at a higher level.

The phenomenon helped Bryant's pre-tax profits to climb 53 per cent to £15.4 million for the six months to November 30. Margins on house sales, which hit a low of 6 per cent last time, recovered to 8.6 per cent.

Adair Homes, which it bought five months ago for £62.2 million, turned in £24.5 million of sales. After integration costs, it made profits of £100,000. Earnings rose to 3.7p (2.4p) per share, but the interim dividend was pegged to 1.45p. It is due on April 23.

Guthrie to join Queensborough

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

MICHAEL GUTHRIE is to join the board of Queensborough Holdings, with a mandate to establish the leisure company in the booming restaurant sector.

Stuart Sims, deputy chairman of Queensborough, said that Mr Guthrie would add to the company a wealth of experience in both the restaurant industry and the leisure sector in general.

Queensborough is considering making an acquisition of around £10 million to kick-start its entry into the food market although it is also investigating the options for a start-up brand.

Mr Guthrie was chairman of Brightons, the restaurant chain that was sold to Whitbread last autumn for £46 million. The link with Brightons has led to spec-

ulation that Queensborough will bid for Pizza Piazza — one of the brands sold to Whitbread but which the brewing company has said does not fit its portfolio.

Mr Guthrie first made his name as chairman of Mecca, the leisure business, before it was acquired by Rank in 1989. He also served as chairman of Pavillion, the motorway service station group, before it was sold to Granada. A consortium led by Mr Guthrie is believed to have tendered a bid for the Welcome Break chain of service stations, which Granada must sell by the end of April.

Queensborough has expanded quickly since it was founded in 1994. It is the third largest caravan park operator in Britain. The shares closed up 5p, at 30p.

Record profits for birthday BA

By OLIVER AUGUST

BRITISH AIRWAYS, which will today celebrate the tenth anniversary of its privatisation, announced record profits for the third quarter in spite of a 33 per cent rise in fuel prices, which pushed the airline's fuel bill up by £56 million.

BA made pre-tax profits of £113 million compared with £104 million in the last three months of 1995, an increase of 8.7 per cent. This resulted in profits of £383 million in the first nine months of its financial year, up £49 million on last year's record total.

On top of the fuel price burden, BA also joined the long list of British companies that have suffered from the rise in sterling. This reduced revenues by 1.8 per cent for every mile flown.

Passenger traffic in the three months rose 9 per cent,

and 71.2 per cent of available seats were sold, another record figure. Third quarter earnings per share rose to 9.2p from 9.1p.

Sir Colin Marshall, the chairman, said 1996 had been a year of "economic growth and record profits" for the airline industry. "We expect these trends to continue in 1997," Sir Colin said.

The group would concentrate on clearing the regulatory hurdles in the way of the alliance with American Airlines and on the launch of new transatlantic services, he said.

Passengers will today be offered 200 return tickets on Concorde between London and New York — worth £5,400 each — for just £10 as part of the anniversary celebrations.

Tempus, page 28

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THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

Premiership goal for Sykes

PAUL SYKES, the multi-millionaire, is playing cupid to the UK's leading soccer clubs, linking them up to the World Wide Web.

The chief executive of Planet Online, the Leeds-based Internet service, of which Lord Parkinson is chairman, has already cut his first deal with Leeds United. Until Caspian Group bought the club last summer, Sykes was rumoured to be interested.

Having recently added Microsoft and Camelot to his list of clients, Sykes says that he expects to be doing business with another seven Premiership clubs before the end of the season.

EMU praise

GERRY ROBINSON, the head of Granada, Liam Strong of Sears, and Peter Sutherland, of Goldman Sachs International, took time out yesterday to hear Richard Bruton, the Irish Minister for Enterprise and Employment, sing the praises of EMU. Speaking at the launch of *Business 97*, the directory of 100 Irish business personalities, Bruton said he expected economic and monetary union to reduce the cost of money in the Republic where interest rates had been higher than in Germany. "It will be healthy for the long-term vibrancy of the Irish economy," Bruton said.

Jetty-ing off

BRIAN Mackley is moving to TIR Securities. Known as the "Earl of Essex", the former main board director of what was Smith New Court, is a connoisseur of fat cigars and City restaurants. Mackley has slipped on a few banana skins along the way, however. While staying at his holiday home in Menorca, Mackley, who is better used to whizzing through the suburbs in his lipstick red Porsche, decided to go by boat to his nearby friend's place. However, after a long and bibulous lunch, he jumped back in his boat, forgetting to untie the rope, and sped off with half the jetty.



"I believe they have an account here"

Following star

ANOTHER defection from Quilter Goodson to Laing & Crutchfield. After three star players defected almost 18 months ago, David Malpas, 35, has followed suit. The Quilter's white-kid, whose father Peter was number two to Sir Nicholas Goodson, yesterday handed in his notice. So, when will owners Commercial Union throw in the towel and make a deal with Laings?

Lyons's share

HAVING fired off an initially hostile, and ultimately successful, approach to the old National & Provincial, Abbey National chief executive Peter Birch has appointed Lazarus, N&P's former adviser, to guide the Abbey through its hostile bid for Scottish Amicable. Just for good measure, Alastair Lyons, the former head of N&P, will be in charge of ScotAm should the Abbey succeed.

MORAG PRESTON



Kenneth Branagh as the Prince with his leading lady, Julie Christie, as Gertrude in the actor-director's four-hour film version of *Hamlet*

Coming soon near you — a multiscreen boom

Cinema chains are planning record expansion, but there are fears filmgoers will be swamped by too many options, says Adam Jones

Whatever you do in Sheffield, don't ask what's on at the cinema. The answer could drag on longer than Kenneth Branagh's four-hour *Hamlet*. Sheffield, a city of 550,000, is challenging for the title of Multiplex Capital of Britain. If all planned development goes ahead, it will boast 79 cinema screens at just five sites. That's one screen for every 7,000 inhabitants.

The UK average is closer to one for every 25,000. But not for long. Cinema operators are planning record expansion this year, in what has been dubbed "the second wave of the multiplexes". The boom is leading to fears that the British filmgoer, traditionally underserved, will be swamped by too many options in spite of continuing growth in admission figures.

The multiscreen cinema operators could feel the pinch. Dodona Research, an industry analyst, says they enjoy profit margins of 25 to 30 per cent before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation are taken into account.

Defined as new cinemas with five or more screens, multiplexes came to Britain in 1985, with a pair in Salford Quays and Milton Keynes.

Between 1987 and 1991, 500 new screens were constructed, according to Dodona, before a recession-induced slump that extended to 1995. Investment in new screens, either through new multiplexes or extensions to old ones, then surged back to previous peak levels in 1996.

In a comprehensive survey of the cinema industry last October, Dodona expected record growth for 1997: 30 multiplex openings, accounting for 293 new screens and 70,000 seats.

Cinema operators have done nothing to dispel this belief subsequently. Some chains, such as ABC, are deliberately seeking areas where there is little competition. But in places like Sheffield, rivalry is going to be intense. The city currently has an 11-screen Warner Bros cinema, a ten-screen UCL and a ten-screen Odeon. Virgin has been granted planning permission for

a 20-screen cinema at Sheffield Arena, and Warner, now partnered by Village Roadshow, an Australian chain, aims to develop the 11-screen site at the Meadowhall shopping centre into a 30-screen "megaplex".

On top of that, there is a planning application for a nine-screen Warner Village as part of the redevelopment of the city's covered market.

Barry Jenkins, chief executive of ABC cinemas, says: "I think they're mad. I was offered two sites in Sheffield and I said no to both."

Sheffield City Council is worried about the oversupply. It fears for the health of the Odeon, the only city centre multiscreen cinema. Instead of job creation, the activity could just lead to job redistribution.

Mr Jenkins says that Birmingham and Manchester are also saturated. Instead, the company is planning to open multiplexes in Edinburgh, Mans-

field and Rochdale. At present, ABC has the most sites in Britain. Odeon, however, has the most screens. UCI the most admissions. Odeon is opening new multiplexes in Southampton, Leicester, Camden, Wrexham and Kettering, along with two yet to be named sites: approximately 60 screens in total.

UCI says it will build at least 104 screens between now and the millennium. Steve Knibbs, managing director, says: "The unknown in all this is how megaplexes [20-plus screens] will do." None of the UCI plans is that big. Other big players include National Amusements and Cine-UK.

A big factor in the growth of the multiplexes is their bankability as anchors for new leisure developments. Property companies have turned to leisure as an alternative to commercial letting. High-profile sites such as Battersea Power Station have been

earmarked for cinema-led schemes. One developer arranged a deal that would net a £3 million profit by selling a stake in a leisure project before the original deal had closed.

But the bottom line has been the growth in cinema admissions in the past decade. Dodona expects total cinema admissions to rise from about 132 million in 1996 to 180 million in the year 2000. In 1984, there were just 54 million. It also expects the total number of multiplex screens to rise from a current level of about 900 to 1,500 in the year 2000.

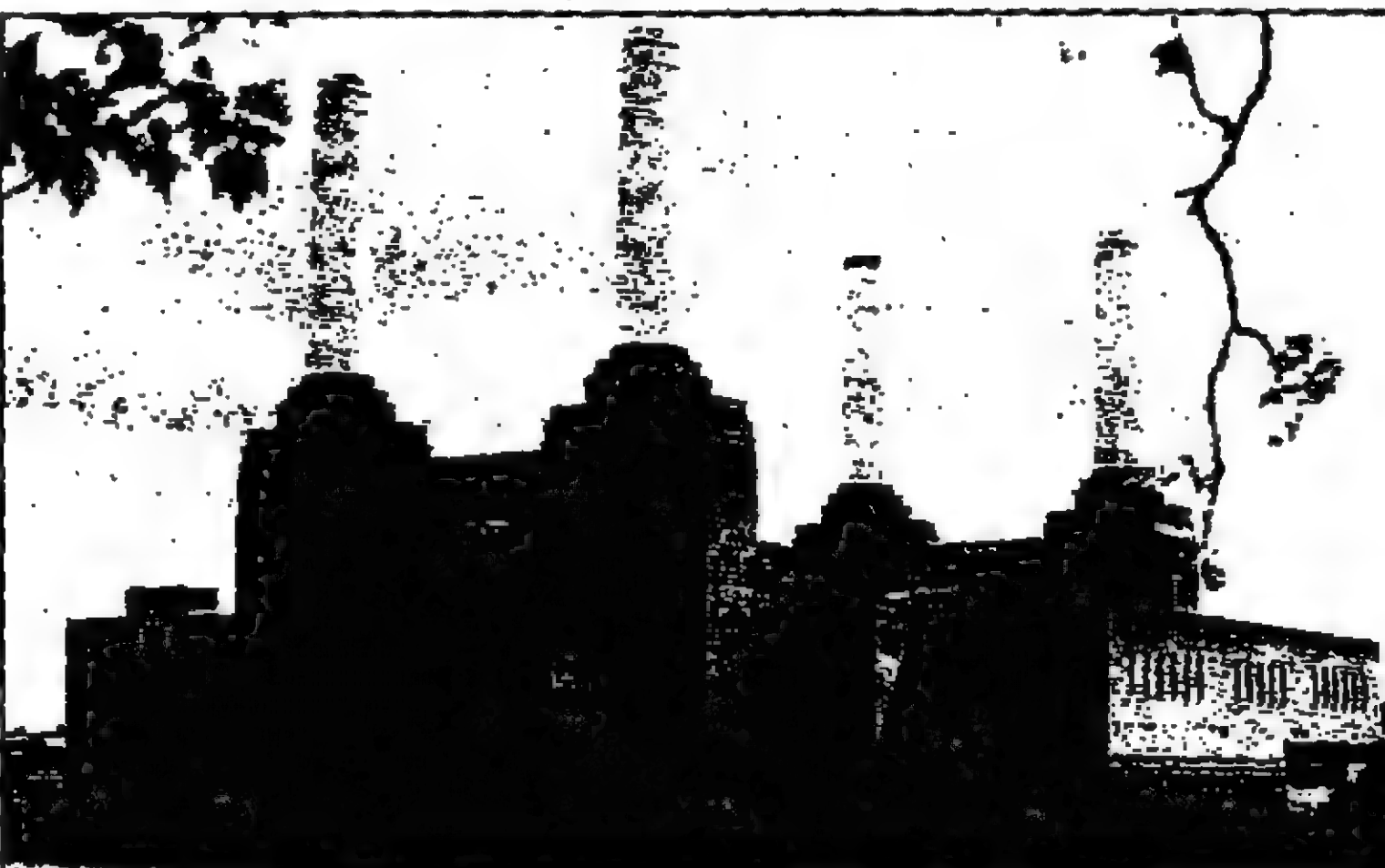
Karsten Grummit, of Dodona, says: "There are still a lot of locations that don't have enough coverage. The multiplex industry is very profitable, there is no indication as yet that demand is fully satisfied."

The multiplex operators are also prone to bluffing. Announcing a development in a city can thwart a rival, even if you have no plans to build the cinema. Many will not happen.

But there is no doubt that the multiplex's idyllic youth — not one has failed — could be entering a trickier adolescence. As they evolve into megaplexes the difficulty of showing 20 to 30 desirable films at a time could lead to empty seats by the thousand in spite of a general growth in cinema-going. One cinema boss says: "It will be a damn sight more competitive." He said last year's wave of openings were already hitting existing multiplexes. Up to 50 per cent of business has evaporated at the worst-hit ones. He says: "They are not going to curl up and die."

Cinema ticket prices have come under pressure from video rentals. But with new multiplexes building so close to existing operations a price war cannot be discounted, particularly as higher profit margins on sweets and popcorn could take up the slack.

The catalyst for that sort of competition might not be far away. Barry Jenkins, of ABC, says: "Sooner or later, a multiplex is going to close for lack of business. When it happens, I think it's going to send shock waves through the industry."



Battersea Power Station has been earmarked for a cinema-led scheme

Ethical consumers make companies respect our planet

From Mr Gavin Grant, Sir, Socially responsible businesses are encouraged and delighted by the growing power of ethical consumers ("UK companies fight shy of rights activists", says survey, January 13). This rapidly growing movement of animal welfare and human rights activists is rightly waking up to the role of business in abusing the environment and people.

While UK and US consumers are leading the way in

questioning corporate practice, Control Risks' own survey shows the growing public impact in Holland and Germany. The truth is, more and more people around the world want to know the true story behind products they buy. They are demanding that companies disclose their overall social and environmental impact and have a right to do so.

So don't label this movement as doing nothing more than "damaging company profits and hindering overseas development". Let's celebrate the fact that business, which today is more powerful than most governments, is having to adopt a sustainable agenda respecting the Earth and its people, rather than one that will literally cost the earth.

Yours sincerely, GAVIN GRANT (General Manager, Global Public Affairs), The Body Shop International PLC, Watersmead, Littlehampton, West Sussex.

Saddened by House of Fraser's state

From Mr Brian Mattinson Sir, More bad news from House of Fraser, including the sale of a Binnis store, earns its choice of title, "Ignoble House" (Times chart, January 28). At the time of the flotation, you printed: "Few companies in the world are viewed with more suspicion and cynicism in the City than House of Fraser" (July 21, 1993). You followed this with: "Both Mr McGowan, now executive chairman, and the other non-executives conspicu-

ously lack retailing experience" (March 7, 1996).

How retailing has changed since the formative years of Binnis, under the chairmanship of one of the trade's men of integrity, John Simpson. With vision, drive and mounting experience, he made Binnis solid, with the strong corporate identity coveted by Hugh Fraser. After Mr Simpson's retirement, the group's very soundness made it vulnerable in the bitter takeover battle won by Fraser in 1993. I am privileged to have known John Simpson, my wife's grandfather, and continue to be saddened by the state of the conglomerate which owes so much to Binnis and therefore to him.

I hope that the present chief executive, John Coleman, can achieve a swing back towards the individuality and standards associated with the old respected high street names. To move such a mountain he will need faith as a grain of the seed linked in our minds with his surname, and the vision of the pioneer with whom he shares his first name.

Yours faithfully, B. J. H. MATTINSON, 6 Harrison Close, Pickering, North Yorkshire.

Regulator's TransCo view is cavalier

From Dr Denis MacShane, MP for Rotherham (Labour) Sir, Clare Spottiswoode informs us that TransCo will be reduced to a "head office ... sub-contracting out a (sic) vast majority of its work to other people" (report, February 5).

Thus she consigns to the scrapheap thousands of managers, skilled technicians, and other employees as well as a structure of service and safety standards which has served the gas industry well.

I doubt if at the height of state ownership of industry any minister would have dared make such pronouncements in such a cavalier fashion.

The Prime Minister told me yesterday in the Commons that his Chancellor was "infallible". The powers Ms Spottiswoode grants to herself also imply a new papal outlook about how industry should work that is worrying to those of us less convinced that the theology of today's regulators is unchallengeable.

Yours faithfully, DENIS MACSHANE, House of Commons.

Predictable pound

From Mr Wolfgang Michel

Sir, I notice a tone of hysteria over "the strange rise of the British pound", as also the dollar.

Quite frankly, I and my associates are puzzled: what is taking place was entirely

foreseeable. It is not the pound and the dollar that were undervalued but, on the contrary, it was currencies such as the French franc and the German mark that were grossly overvalued.

Their playing around with economic and monetary union (EMU) did not help.

When, for instance, the

implied that Morgan Grenfell is no longer proud. They should be, they have an outstanding record of growth over the last few years.

They have not brought the City into disrepute. By their association with Deutsche Bank, they have increased the world image of the City and

reinforced its longer-term position. Any disrepute has been brought about by those very few employees whose integrity leaves much to answer for.

Yours faithfully, ROBERT COOPER, Abington Manor, Bibury, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

Development of A3XX will justify the costs

A3XX is \$8 billion, virtually half the figure to which your article referred and \$1 billion above what Boeing said its now abandoned B747X would have cost. But for a strengthened and lengthened fuselage based on an airframe of the 1960s, this aircraft would have been an almost new machine. The relatively small difference between an all-new design, ours, and the shelved

superjumbo is insufficient to justify the near-doubling of our estimated costs. In the eyes of the leading airlines the Boeing B747X was simply a costly derivative delivering little added value. Not so the A3XX.

Yours faithfully, ROBERT ALZART, Airbus Industrie, 1 Rond Point Maurice Bellonte, 31707 Blagnac, Cedex, France.



Keeping up UK allure

Toyota's recent warning that Britain's attraction as a location for future inward investment may depend partly on whether it is in or out of the European single currency threw up some crucial questions about what constitutes national competitiveness.

Eddie George last week rebutted the notion that the exchange rate would be key to determining whether UK plc remained a magnet to overseas companies, arguing that Britain's supply-side policies were far more important.

This point is developed in a paper by George Magnus and Paul Donovan, of UBS Global Research. They argue that "concerns over the strength or weakness of the euro, or participation in EMU, are of little value to the European competitiveness debate". Traditional judgments on competitiveness have always depended on exchange rates and trade, but this is becoming irrelevant in a world increasingly dominated by multinational companies. Global firms are arguably far more efficient than governments in making long-term investment decisions, acting as conduits for technology transfer, and, as such, are the key to long-term competitiveness.

The UNCTAD World Investment Report pointed to the scale of this phenomenon, finding in 1993 that global firms accounted for two thirds of world exports of goods and services. Half of this comprised exports from one part of a company to another. In considering real competitiveness, look at France, which is running a huge trade surplus, but still has an unemployment rate of nearly 13 per cent, and the US, which has run a large trade deficit for years but whose unemployment rate fell to 5.4 per cent in January. Which is more competitive, France or America?

Of course, there is often a divergence of interest between national economies and international companies. As UBS says, the aim of national competitiveness is to raise living standards — primarily by creating jobs — while that of corporate competitiveness relies on raising profits, often by cutting jobs. This conundrum shot through much of the hand-wringing discussion of differ-

ent economic models at the World Economic Forum in Davos, but nobody came up with a vision that side-stepped the preferences of international business.

France has gamely tried to argue that Europe's future salvation depends on engineering a soft euro against other world currencies, and it is certainly true that this would be preferable to a resolutely hard euro. But the world business community is far more worried about its inflexible and expensive labour markets for the reason that they make investing prohibitively expensive.

There are still those who argue that a well-run domestic economy can provide a perfectly good engine for growth, that it is somehow a sign of inherent weakness if a government has to rely on bribing foreign companies to invest on its shores. But consider the fact that, between 1985 and 1990, foreign direct investment (FDI) by OECD countries grew twice as fast as trade in goods and services and more than twice as fast as output.

In UBS's latest competitiveness rankings — a year old and being reviewed — America and Britain stood 17th and 19th out of about 40 economies, while Germany and France were 11th and 14th respectively. This seems surprising given the emphasis on FDI, attracted by flexible labour markets, deregulation et al. But UBS emphasises that the US and Britain have the potential to move higher. France and Germany to slip back.

Paul Donovan says the difference lies in the fact that the US and the UK have already been through the most politically painful part of improving competitiveness by deregulating labour markets, thereby achieving a measure of cost competitiveness and flexibility. That is not enough and the next stage will be improving the quality of the workforce through education and training. This is hard work, but not politically difficult. France and Germany still rank well because they have got quality, but the painful bit is yet to be tackled. This is certainly not lost on a company such as Toyota, a corporate refugee from the many inflexibilities of life in Japan.

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Norwich Union unveils 37% leap

By Robert Miller

NORWICH UNION, which plans to become a stock market company in the summer, yesterday unveiled a 37 per cent jump in new life, pensions and savings business to £224 million in 1996.

The UK's third-largest mutual insurer, which on flotation is expected to hand over five shares worth about £500 to some three million members, reported a 28 per cent increase in total new annual premiums to £98 million last year. Single premium business rose by 46 per cent to £13 billion.

Norwich Union, which could have a market capitalisation of approximately £4 billion, said single premium life and savings business had increased fivefold as a result of a series of special offers on the company's with-profits bond. Sales of the bond alone accounted for £253 million.

Annual premium life and savings business rose 21 per cent to £26 million, while sales of personal and corporate pensions rose 31 per cent to £68 million. Unit trust and personal equity plan business increased to £45.4 million against £26.9 million in 1995. The group's pension fund investment service won mandates worth £75 million to invest on behalf of pension fund clients — a rise of 117 per cent over the previous year.

Norwich Union, which will give members details of its flotation in the spring followed shortly after by a special meeting, fared less well on the international side. Annual premium business fell by 12 per cent to £81 million, while single premium sales were down 8 per cent to £465 million.

Allan Bridgewater, group chief executive of Norwich Union, said: "Sales fell principally due to difficult market conditions in Australia and the removal of tax relief on premiums in France. However, good progress was made in Spain where we successfully continue to develop our life operation."



Giles Hilton expects Whittard of Chelsea, which has an estate of 88 shops, to open its first franchise outlet in the Middle East with a store in Dubai.

Dalgety blames BSE for half-time setback

By Sarah Cunningham

A DECLINE of 30 per cent in cattle feed sales because of mad cow disease meant a sharp drop in profits at Dalgety in the first half, the food manufacturer revealed yesterday.

Richard Clothier, chief executive, said the £4 million fall in pre-tax profit in the six months to December 31 to £43 million resulted from a £6 million decline in cattle feed profits. The strength of sterling has also reduced overseas earnings in the first half, he said. Analysts trimmed their full-year forecasts by up to £10 million to £106 million to £110 million.

The company expects the second half to be "much improved" because of the continued improvements in petfoods, new capacity and new products in food ingredients, and the declining effects of BSE. Cattle

food sales will be hit again in the second half, but with less dramatic effect than in the first half, Mr Clothier said.

Net debt has increased from £281 million to £305 million, giving a gearing ratio of 76 per cent. However, capital expenditure will fall as most of the group's main projects are completed, and gearing is set to stabilise by the year end.

Despite a fall in earnings per share, from 10.8p a year ago to 9.3p, the interim dividend is being maintained at 8.5p. It is payable on June 2.

Sales of cattle feed in the first half fell dramatically as a delay in the cattle culling programme introduced to tackle BSE resulted in excess milk production which in turn reduced demand for feed and created intense price competi-

tion. In petfoods, operating profit increased 8 per cent to £17.9 million as sales, taking exchange rate fluctuations into account, rose 1 per cent. Star of the show was Felix catfood which achieved a record market share of 27 per cent. Arthur's and Choozy recovered their losses in the previous year. Mr Clothier said that a promotional campaign by Mars for its Whiskas brand had pushed Felix into the number two spot briefly, but it had since regained its number one place.

In dogfood, which has not seen the same pick-up in business as catfood, the company plans to relaunch Winalot in the UK. Its market share has fallen to below 20 per cent in the past two years and the aim is to return to over 20 per cent.

The division's distribution and outsourcing costs have been pushed higher by the BSE scare. The distraction of dealing with its effects has meant plans to integrate the Quaker and Paragon businesses into its petfoods arm are nearly two years behind schedule.

A 6 per cent increase in food ingredients sales was not reflected in the division's operating profit which was steady at £15.3 million after increased investment in manufacturing. The company is expecting growth from ingredients in the second half. In food distribution, operating profit fell 7 per cent to £5.6 million as growth in the US fast food market slowed. This hit sales of McDonald's, a Dalgety customer. Mr Clothier said that the US market remains tough.

Shares rise as Whittard profits leap

By Alasdair Murray

SHARES in Whittard of Chelsea, the AIM-listed tea and coffee retailer, jumped to a record high yesterday after the company unveiled a 49 per cent increase in half-year profits to £550,000.

Giles Hilton, chief executive, said the second half had started well and the company would soon open its first franchise outlet in the Middle East in Dubai. Total sales increased 23 per cent to £116 million as the estate increased from 76 shops in the same period last year to 88.

Whittard said it had increased its share of the ground coffee market to 6.9 per cent, while its share of the specialty tea market rose to 21 per cent.

Shares in the company closed up 20½p at 244½p, compared with a placing price of 145p when the company joined the market last autumn. A maiden interim dividend of 1p is payable on February 25.

Woolwich members vote on float today

THE fate of the Woolwich Building Society will be decided today after an extraordinary meeting to vote on proposals for the flotation of the society. If the flotation is backed by enough votes, some 2.57 million members will benefit from share payouts worth £1,000 on average. If the flotation of the £3 billion building society goes ahead, all members will benefit from a basic distribution of 450 shares. Savers of at least two years' standing who have more than £1,000 invested in the society will receive more shares. The maximum number of shares that any member may receive is 2,000.

Woolwich needs 75 per cent of savers to vote in favour, and a straight majority of borrowers, for the conversion to go through. Only 20 per cent of members need to vote. Woolwich said that many people had been voting by return of post. The vote on the Woolwich will be followed later this month by the vote to decide the future of the Halifax. About 3.5 million of the Halifax's eight million members have to vote in order for the float to go ahead.

Lombard Tricity buys

YORKSHIRE BANK, a wholly owned subsidiary of National Australia Bank, is to sell its retail services and Storecard companies to Lombard Tricity. Lombard, part of National Westminster Group, is expected to pay a premium for the £15 million of combined net assets held by the two Yorkshire Bank subsidiaries when the deal is completed by the end of March. Lombard Tricity, the market leader in point of sale credit services, has an annual turnover of £1.5 billion. Among Lombard's 15,000 UK retail outlets are British Gas, Liberty, DFS and World of Leather. Yorkshire Bank, which has net assets of more than £300 million, said its subsidiaries employ some 200 staff and it is understood that they will be part of the deal although no public statement has been made to that effect.

Blue Circle venture

BLUE CIRCLE, the building materials group, is to make its first push into the Philippines with a \$300 million cement works in Cebu built in partnership with four other companies. The company has businesses in Malaysia and Singapore and is looking to build up its Asia-Pacific presence. Last year construction growth in the Philippines was 14 per cent and is forecast to continue expanding. Blue Circle will have 20 per cent equity and overall control of the plant, which will have a capacity of 1.6 million tonnes a year.

Runway builders chosen

THE first major runway to be built in the UK for 20 years is to be constructed by Amec and Tarmac in a £100 million deal with Manchester Airport. Work will start this spring. The runway — the airport's second — is expected to be operational in three years. It will be nearly two miles long and able to serve a future generation of larger aircraft. Manchester has singled big economic benefits to come from a second runway, forecasting 15,000 extra jobs at the airport and 50,000 for the region over the next ten years.

Liberty names contractor

LIBERTY, the Regent Street retailing group, has awarded the contract for its warehousing and distribution to P&O Distribution. The contract will start in April and will follow the completion of the sale of Liberty's existing warehouse in Burnley. Ian Thomson, group managing director, said: "These steps restructure our distribution activities to recognise the closure of regional stores achieved last year and bases our new distribution centre very close to the Regent Street store and the four Heathrow airport shops."

Hospitals in PPP deal

PPP, the second largest private medical insurer, yesterday unveiled the first in a series of link-ups with private hospitals that could lead to premium price cuts of up to 15 per cent. The first hospitals to sign up are the Nuffield in Bournemouth, the Harbour in Poole, Thornbury in Sheffield and the Park in Nottingham. PPP will also expand its cancer care network through Guys and St Thomas's NHS trust and the Royal Marsden, in a deal that could generate up to £15 million a year in NHS income by the end of 1997.

Foster's disappoints

FOSTER'S, the Australian brewing company, disappointed the Sydney stock market yesterday, after its half-year profits failed to live up to expectations. Shares in the group dropped 11 cents to \$52.54 after Ted Kinkel, chief executive, unveiled a 10 per cent rise in net profits of A\$168 million (£78 million) for the half year to December 30, well below the A\$180 million many analysts expected. The shares also lost ground after BHP, Foster's major shareholder, rejected suggestions that it was on the verge of selling its 37 per cent stake in the group.

Japan declines again

JAPAN'S current account surplus shrank 30.9 per cent in 1996, the third consecutive year of decline, pushed down by a surge in imports of crude oil and office equipment, and a rise in spending by Japanese travelling abroad. Finance ministry officials said they expect the current account surplus, which fell to ¥1,806 billion yen (£36 billion), to continue its downward trend, given that import growth was outpacing increases in exports. The trade surplus for 1996 totalled ¥9,115.2 billion, 26.2 per cent lower than the previous year.

Ombudsman appointed

ANTHONY HOLLAND, a past president of the Law Society, was yesterday appointed as the principal Ombudsman for the Personal Investment Authority, the watchdog for those firms that sell direct to the public. Mr Holland, 58, will succeed Stephen Edell, the former Building Societies Ombudsman who was the first PIA Ombudsman. Mr Edell is to retire in June.

Japanese to throw banks a lifeline

From Robert Whyman in Tokyo

HIROSHI MITSUZUKA, Japan's Finance Minister, said yesterday that the Government will "firmly support" the nation's 20 biggest banks if they run into trouble clearing huge problem loans.

The assurance was intended to calm rumours that the Nippon Credit Bank, the smallest of the three long-term credit banks, was close to bankruptcy. The bank dismissed the speculation as groundless, saying it had ample liquidity and would dispose of ¥130 billion (£647 million) in bad loans in the current fiscal year.

"As Finance Minister, it's only natural that I will firmly support Japan's major banks," Mr Mitsuzuka told a parliamentary committee. He praised their "strenuous" efforts to tackle non-performing loans.

He reiterated the Government's policy of not spending public money to bail out financial institutions, apart from mortgage lenders and credit unions. But it is generally accepted that it would have no alternative but to inject funds to help banks that have liquidity problems in clearing debts exacerbated by the slide in land prices.

Core offer takes Scott Pickford

By Fraser Nelson

CORE LABORATORIES of the US has claimed victory in the battle for Scott Pickford, the geological services company, after its £391 million offer was accepted by Aerodata, the rival bidder.

Aerodata, an Australian oil drilling consultancy, has agreed to sell its 22 per cent shareholding in Pickford to Core Laboratories at 59p per share. It will make a profit of £121,000 in selling the stake, which it picked up in a share swap on Friday.

Don Scott, Pickford's founder and chairman, originally sought Aerodata's bid to rescue the company from a group of rebel shareholders who gained control of the board in November.

With the support of Mr Scott and two other directors, the Australian firm was offered 36 per cent of the votes, but refused to lift its £8.32 million negotiating price.

The offer by Core Laboratories, which is listed on Nasdaq in the US and is capitalised at about £120 million, was supported by the rebels, who represented 45 per cent of the shareholders. Core has been told that a merger with Scott Pickford may be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

NCC attacks investment bias

By Caroline Merrell

THE National Consumer Council has attacked financial services companies for failing to cater for the needs of those who have little to invest.

In a report published today, *Savings and Investments for Low Income Consumers*, the NCC claims that those who have low incomes have less choice of investment and savings schemes, and are often given a very poor deal. Those who have less to save can often end up getting returns that are less than the inflation rate. Those without current accounts, for example, miss out on the best offers because payments must be made by cheque or direct debit.

Many telephone banking services may be restricted to those with a certain income, while bank branches have fallen from 21,873 in 1984 to 17,365 in 1994. David Hatch, chairman of the NCC, said:

"The returns on offer to poorer savers can be so poor. Many would do as well stuffing their cash under a mattress, or splashing out straight away."

The NCC urges the high street banks to work harder to attract those who do not have a bank account. It also wants the Building Societies Commission to make the building societies more friendly towards the small savers. At the moment, many have very high opening balances to try to stop speculators opening accounts merely to benefit from flotation or takeover bonuses.

The NCC says that National Savings should be designing products aimed at satisfying the demands of small savers, that credit unions should be more accessible to users, and that financial services companies and the voluntary organisations should build up a register of

financial advisers prepared to give advice for a small fixed fee. Other recommendations include urging the Personal Investment Authority to develop regulation to cover low-income consumers and to take action against life insurance companies to prevent policies lapsing.

Adrian Coles, director-general of the Building Societies Association, said: "The prime motivation of an increasing proportion of the financial services industry is to generate profit for shareholders rather than to offer service to customers. The BSA fully endorses the NCC's finding that consumers should not have to run the risk of losing what is potentially an extremely valuable financial structure — the mutual — without proper research into what it has to offer."

THE TIMES

TOMORROW

STYLE

Lord Alexander, chairman of Nat West, talks about the bank's new art gallery.

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CHANGING TIMES

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Shares fall back from day's highs

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous days' close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5
BANKS				
Barclays	120.00	+1.00	5.5%	12.5
HSBC	115.00	+1.00	5.2%	12.0
Midland	110.00	+1.00	5.0%	11.5
NatWest	105.00	+1.00	4.8%	11.0
Prudential	100.00	+1.00	4.5%	10.5
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5
ENGINEERING VEHICLES				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5
FOOD MANUFACTURERS				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5
LEISURE & HOTELS				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5
Mining				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5
PROPERTY				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5
TELECOMMUNICATIONS				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5
TEXTILES & APPAREL				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5
TRANSPORT				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5
RETAILERS FOOD				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5
RETAILERS GENERAL				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5
WATER				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5
ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
PHARMACEUTICALS				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5
PRINTING & PAPER				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5
PROPERTY				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5
TELECOMMUNICATIONS				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5
TEXTILES & APPAREL				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5
TRANSPORT				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5
RETAILERS FOOD				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5
RETAILERS GENERAL				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5
WATER				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5
ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5



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Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
SHORTS (under 5 years)				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5
LONGS (over 15 years)				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5
UNDATED				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation at:				
Adnams	125.00	+1.00	4.8%	18.5
Beck's	110.00	+1.00	4.5%	17.5
Carlsberg	105.00	+1.00	4.2%	16.5
Heineken	100.00	+1.00	4.0%	15.5
Guinness	95.00	+1.00	3.8%	14.5

ny's highs

Trade. Changes are calculated on dividend. Changes, yields and

High	Low	Open	Close	High	Low	Open	Close
40	39	39	39	100	99	99	99
10	9	9	9	100	99	99	99
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LAW

● LAW COLLEGE CHANGES 37
● LAW REPORT 21

Gary Slapper on the growing enthusiasm by victims of crime for the civil courts



Linda Griffiths, left, won £50,000 damages for rape after the CPS failed to prosecute O.J. Simpson, not guilty of murder but liable in the civil courts



Any court in a storm

Not long before O.J. Simpson was found liable last week in a Californian civil court for the homicide of his former wife Nicole and her friend Ronald Goldman, a civil summons relating to homicide was issued in London by the father of the murdered doctor Joan Francisco.

The Central London County Court summons is a claim for assault and battery against the man who Ms Francisco's relatives believe was her killer. It is the first civil action arising from a murder where no previous criminal prosecution has been brought.

Over the past few years there has been a growing use of the civil courts to litigate against people who have committed crimes for which the State has been unwilling or unable to convict. In a storm of anger and resentment, victims are willing to use any part of the legal system to have an alleged wrongdoer condemned and recent civil actions have included claims in respect of incidents as serious as rape.

The British Retail Consortium (BRC), frustrated at the low level of prosecutions of shoplifters, has just called for the new "civil recovery" system to be introduced in which thieves could be sued for compensation. The request is now being considered at the Home Office.

The use of civil procedure to address wrongs which appear essentially criminal raises many important questions both practical and jurisprudential. Perhaps the most serious question is — does such cross-litigation matter?

In essence, there is no difference between a crime and a civil wrong. Nothing is inherently and eternally criminal. Lending money at a rate of interest used to be a crime in early English history, but now it is a reputable business. The use of opiate drugs for recreational purposes used to be acceptable, but in modern times such behaviour is criminal. A crime is simply anything the State has chosen to criminalise. There are more than 7,000 different crimes but, as Lord Atkin once said, "the only common nature they will be found to possess is that they are prohibited by the State, and those that commit them are punished".

It is the violation of this principle that can be sufficiently engaging to some victims to propel them into the civil courts, motivated not by the desire for compensation, but by a wish for a court to condemn the alleged wrongdoer. Caron Thatcher, the solicitor acting for the family of Dr Francisco, said: "The family's ultimate aim is to have justice done for Joan... we hope that during the course of these proceedings more evidence may emerge which

will result in the CPS reviewing the case."

A similar feeling prompted Linda Griffiths into the civil courts. Ms Griffiths complained that she had been raped by Arthur Williams, a former chef at the Dorchester, while working for him in 1991 as a dishwasher. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) decided not to prosecute Mr Williams. Ms Griffiths then sued Mr Williams for trespass against the person, and was awarded £50,000 damages.

A crime is simply anything which the State decides is criminal

Last year, according to a survey of the BRC, the cost of customer thefts was £653 million. Civil recovery legislation exists in 49 states in the United States. The main purpose of the consortium's proposal is not to replace prosecutions with civil actions, but to establish a fast and inexpensive way of gaining compensation. A report for the BRC by Professor Joshua Banfield observes that a civil case may be a more certain way of obtaining recompense "because a criminal

case may be discontinued by the Crown Prosecution Service, or the individual may simply be cautioned by the police".

For such shoplifting cases, it can be argued, the nominal status of the court is perhaps relatively unimportant, whereas for matters like homicide, rape, and serious assault, the mission of the State to put a public seal of disapproval and shame on culprits cannot be achieved in the civil process.

The use of the civil courts for criminal matters is problematic in two ways. First, the burden of proof is lower in civil courts than in criminal courts, so that just because conduct is certified by the civil system as a civil wrong does not mean that a crime has been committed. For a conviction, a case in the criminal courts must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt, whereas, in the civil courts a plaintiff can win "on the balance of probabilities". After the Court of Appeal had found against him, Mr Williams said: "I still maintain that I am not guilty of rape. God help anyone who is accused of rape in a civil court."

In the O.J. Simpson case, the criminal trial last year failed to find him guilty beyond reasonable doubt, whereas the civil jury last week found him liable for the homicide on "a preponderance of the evidence".

The second problem is the

level of failure in the criminal justice system that such civil actions reflect. The civil process is also an increasingly expensive and risk-laden business, so the fact that an apparently growing number of crime victims are disposed to fight their cases in such a system is a token of grave dissatisfaction with the ordinary prosecution process.

This emerging crisis is also evident in the rise in private prosecutions and vigilante justice. The demand for court condemnation of wrongdoers from victims with a sense of unrequited justice is potentially large: more than 150,000 cases were discontinued by the CPS during 1995-96.

Dr Slapper is principal lecturer in law, Staffordshire University.

A woman who refused to accept injustice



Iris Bentley: moral force

A practising barrister has all sorts of clients, some delightful, many forgettable, and a few impossible. Occasionally, counsel meets an exceptional individual for whom it is a privilege to act. Iris Bentley, who died three weeks ago, was in that class.

In December 1952, Iris's brother, Derek, was convicted by a jury of the murder of PC Sidney Miles. Derek Bentley's accomplice, Christopher Craig, fired the fatal shot, but police officers gave evidence that Bentley had shouted "Let him have it, Chris". Bentley was hanged on January 28, 1953. Iris devoted the next 44 years to campaigning for official recognition that a gross miscarriage of justice had occurred.

In 1993, I represented Iris in the Divisional Court. She was applying for judicial review of a decision by the then Home Secretary, Kenneth Clarke, not to grant her brother a posthumous free pardon. Giving judgment, Lord Justice Watkins (with whom Lord Justice Neill and Mr Justice Tuckey agreed) explained that "even by the standards of 1953" the decision not to revoke Bentley from execution was "clearly wrong".

Bentley was aged 19. Craig was only 16 and so could not be hanged. The jury made a recommendation for mercy, with which the senior civil servants at the Home Office agreed, especially as Bentley's mental state was "just above the level of a feeble-minded person". But, astonishingly, the trial judge, Lord Goddard (the Lord Chief Justice) wrote to the Secretary of State, Sir David Maxwell Fyfe, that he "could find no mitigating circumstances".

In July 1993, the Divisional Court concluded that proper consideration had not been given to the grant of a posthumous pardon so as to recognise what the court described as "the now generally accepted view that this young man should have been reprieved". The court told the Home Secretary that "it should be possible to devise some formula which would amount to a clear acknowledgement that an injustice was done". Three weeks later, the new Secretary of State, Michael Howard, announced that he was recommending the grant of a posthumous pardon in relation to the sentence of death.

Although pleased that she had secured this limited recognition of the injustice, Iris continued to campaign (with the assistance of her solicitors, B.M. Birnberg & Co) to establish that her brother had been wrongly convicted of murder.

Last October, she supplied the Home

Office with a powerful submission asking that the case be referred back to the Court of Appeal. She described the grossly unfair conduct of Lord Goddard. In summing-up, he told the jury that it was "almost inconceivable" that Bentley did not know that Craig had a gun, and that the jury should ask itself whether to disbelieve police officers "who on that night showed a devotion to duty for which they are entitled to the thanks of the community". He made no proper reference to the burden and standard of proof. He did not correctly direct the jury on the law of joint enterprise.

The Crown relied at trial on a statement which Bentley was alleged to have made to the police suggesting that he knew that Craig had a gun. Therefore, said the Crown, Bentley must have foreseen that Craig might use it. But (as the new submission explains) extreme caution was required in relation to a statement by a youth on the borderline of being educationally subnormal.

In any event, new evidence (in the form of a linguistic analysis) establishes that the statement was not spontaneously made by Bentley, as the police officers testified. If they were untruthful about that, then the credibility of the rest of their evidence is undermined. Moreover, there were substantial discrepancies in the evidence of the police.

It may be said that the legal system should not devote resources to considering old cases. The answer is that the Bentley case (like the Hanratty case, which is also under review by the Home Office) is an important part of the modern history of criminal justice. Careful analysis will teach us valuable lessons and give some comfort to the relatives of those wrongly executed. If crimes committed more than 50 years ago can be the subject of a prosecution under the War Crimes Act, the legal system ought not to grant itself a limitation period for rectifying the wrongs for which it is responsible.

Iris Bentley radiated moral force. Her integrity and sheer determination won the admiration and support of all those she met. Eventually, through the Home Office or through the new Criminal Cases Review Commission, the case of Derek Bentley will be referred back to the Court of Appeal and the conviction quashed. The final tragedy is that the legal system was unable to acknowledge its errors before Iris Bentley's death.

Dr Bentley is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



DAVID PANNICK QC

Safety drive

THE Court Service, with the full backing of the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, has declared war on the clumsy barristers' clerks who have been causing "extensive damage" to the Royal Courts of Justice through their reckless driving of the trolleys they use to ferry documents. The doors and steps of the great building have been suffering particularly badly at the hands of the clerks. Now chambers whose clerks are spotted causing "wilful damage" to the courts will be blacklisted — and clerks will be encouraged to go backwards through doors with their trolleys, which must be of the "three-wheel stair-climber" variety.

Home visit

THE Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf, popped down to Leicester Square last Friday to open the new offices of the Central London Law Centre, a specialist in housing, immigration and employment law, which has moved from cramped quarters above a Chinese restaurant. The centre is in dire need of

additional funding, but so far only the law firms Titmuss, Salmer Dechert and Clifford Chance have offered to help.

A fare cop

THE Magistrate's journal of the Magistrates' Association, has launched a series of articles on the lives of magistrates outside court which promises to make interesting

reading. The first to be featured is a Wimbledon taxi driver, Dennis Potter, who tells of the time when one of his passengers boasted he was a burglar — and asked his cabbie whether he, too, ever broke into houses.

Aids survey

FIRST findings of a survey into the way different Euro-

The keys of justice



Kim Walker

A PRACTICE formed by Mervyn Rundle and Kim Walker four years ago in Exeter without office equipment or knowledge of technology has won the 1997 IT Award of the Society for Computers and the Law. The firm, which uses computers to operate without secretarial or administrative staff, cutting costs by an estimated two thirds, was presented with a winner's plaque by Cherie Booth, QC, the Labour leader's wife, at the Law Society.

pean legal systems are treating people with Aids and HIV has found that 40 per cent of legal aid firms have advised or represented sufferers. The survey of 10,000 firms is part of a Europe-wide study being co-ordinated by Professor Avrom Sheer, of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies.

Speak up

WOULD-BE magistrates should be obliged to declare membership of the Freemasonry, the Magistrates' Association has recommended. The association, which represents 30,000 JPs in England and Wales, has told the Home Affairs Committee of MPs inquiring into Freemasonry that if JPs become Masons after joining the Bench, they should inform their local advisory committees.

High time

WHO said retired lawyers were spent forces? Barry Chedlow, QC, recently wrote to a well-wisher: "I naturally miss the life having spent so long in it. But I am just finishing a German degree at Birkbeck, we have just bought a house in France and I have just qualified as a pilot on four-seat helicopters. I shall keep active."

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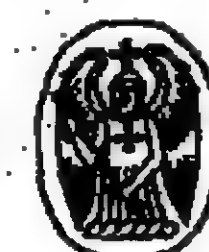
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The 'redwood factor' is much in evidence these days in the legal job market. Not only are lawyers moving around more, they are willing to take the sort of risks which they shunned even six months ago. The high-profile moves to US law firms are a good example. Everyone knows that US firms are riskier places to work than the typical English firm; that employees are paid better but are also expected to perform better, and that a disappointing performance can mean an instant exit. Nevertheless, candidates are saying to us that they are willing to take the risk. They feel confident about prospects for expansion and they want to take the opportunity to make a major career change.

Another example is a candidate who in the past was always extremely cautious (and with good reason: she was made redundant twice in the recession). Recently, she was offered a job with an insurance company, a job that would have appeared to her a year ago. Instead, she chose to join a small firm in Liverpool which she optimistically expects will grow rapidly and offer her potential. The willingness to take risks is particularly evident among partners with client followings. They no longer feel reticent about claiming a following, and once they have joined a new firm they find that the following - to their surprise and delight - actually does materialise. Unlike the ghost followings of a few years ago, client followings today can exceed expectations.

Michael Chambers

INDUSTRY

Sonya Rayner, Morwenna Lewis

Newly Qualified: Midlands

A rare opportunity has arisen for an NQ Solicitor to join a leading consumer goods co. The work is broad ranging, and will involve commercial contracts, IP, employment and consumer law. An excellent package is offered.

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Solicitor with up to 2 yrs' property experience to join leading co in leisure industry. Experience of general commercial law is also required. Ideal as first move into industry.

Engineering: South East

Opportunity for Solicitor or Barrister with at least 3 yrs' experience to join industrial services co. Background in engineering or construction industries is highly desirable. You will also have general commercial experience which must include contracts.

PRIVATE PRACTICE

SOUTH: Helen Mills, Aileen Shepherd
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Partnership Positions

We have been seeking partners seeking a career move for over 20 years now and are regularly placing several partners each month.

Company/Commercial: Holborn

Upmarket small/medium-sized practice seeks 0-2 yr solicitor for over 20 years now and are regularly placing several partners each month.

Litigation Information Officers: City

We have instructions from a number of City firms for info officers in civil and IP. You should have at least 2 yrs' high quality fee earning experience. Part-time possible.

Banking: City

Wide-ranging caseload with 2nd tier practice seeking 0-2 yr solicitor for work on ERM, transactions & new products, restructurings & student loan portfolio work.

Insurance Litigation: City

Well known, mid-sized insurance firm seeks several 1-3 yr qualified litigation assistants to handle a lively mix of insurance, reinsurance and professional neg.

Commercial: South East

Solicitor with up to 2 yrs' commercial experience to join legal dept of major multinational company. Experience of IP is desirable and a good academic background is required.

Property Lawyer: South East

Solicitor or Barrister with 2-4 yrs' experience to join busy property co. You will assist with conveyancing matters and land acquisitions/development. Experience of planning law is desirable but not essential.

Intellectual Property: Central London

Excellent opportunity for Solicitor or Barrister with 1-5 yrs' experience which must include IP/TM to join high profile international organisation. Must have good academic and technical background. Attractive salary.

Commercial Information Officer: City

Top tier practice with expanding know-how department offers solicitor with general commercial law background regular working hours and part-time or full-time work.

IP Litigation: City

Large firm with corp and institutional client base seeks 2-6 yr qual IP litigator to handle trade mark, copyright, passing-off and patent work in a small, dedicated team.

Venture Capital: City

Leading venture capital practice acting for many of Europe's major funds and management teams offers 0-2 yr qual solicitor experience and training of highest quality.

Employment: Greater London

To strengthen its employment team, our client needs a solicitor with up to 18 months' experience in employment. Strong academic record and a love for teamwork important.

Pensions: Manchester

Excellent opportunity now offered by major firm to a senior pensions lawyer with at least 4 years' experience in corporate finance work an advantage.

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Maples and Calder is the largest firm of attorneys-at-law in the Cayman Islands. With a multinational client base primarily comprised of leading banks, corporations, trust companies and financial institutions based across Europe, the United States, the Far East and the Cayman Islands, the firm's expertise encompasses all aspects of international business.

Due to continued expansion and increase in business there now exists a superb opportunity for a top class lawyer to join their highly motivated team in the Cayman Islands. The work will be challenging, with a demanding mix of international financial transactions - the financial rewards and long term career prospects are excellent and the Cayman Islands provides a very attractive environment.

The ideal candidate will have a first class academic background and at least 3 years post qualification experience with a leading City firm in any one or more of the fields of banking, securitisation, corporate finance, capital markets and mutual funds. Salary will be in the region of \$165,000 and there is no personal taxation in the Cayman Islands.

For further information in complete confidence please contact Jane Foster at Laurence Simons International on 0171 831 3270 or write to her at the address below enclosing a full CV. Any direct or third party applications received by the firm will be forwarded to us.



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The firm now seeks to make a senior appointment which will have the full backing of the partnership and which will be effectively supported from within the firm. Your profile:

- Ideally in your late 30's or early 40's
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- Hands on management experience, together with commercial and financial acumen
- Strong communication skills

In addition to developing your area of expertise, you will be encouraged to play a full role in the management and direction of the firm. Salaried partnership will be offered immediately and the overall remuneration package is excellent.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Peter Thompson on 0171 269 2239, or enclose your CV to Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH. Fax 0171 831 6662.

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NEW CHALLENGES

PSA

A recent survey confirmed London's position as one of the world's leading centres for fund management and thereby confirmed that this is a very good time to be an ISA lawyer with 1-4 years' experience. This leading City firm can offer the right candidate from a good background some exciting work and excellent prospects. Ref: T34676

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

This leading international firm has arguably the best employment practice in the City and offers a real future to an employee benefits lawyer with 1-3 years' experience. You need experience of employee share and incentive schemes, Schedule E and national insurance. An unbeatable first move. Ref: T37747

ENTERTAINMENT

This smaller but very well-known City firm boasts an excellent client base and the opportunity for a multimedia lawyer with 1-4 years' experience to build a real reputation in this area while making rapid progress towards partnership. You will ideally come from a firm with a good entertainment practice. Ref: T37748

ECCOMPETITION

This top 10 firm is one of the most exciting places to be in the City right now. It has come out of the recession stronger than it went into it and is making its mark all over, none more so than in ECCOMpetition work. A lawyer with 0-3 years' experience could hardly do better. French or German skills would be ideal. Ref: T37749

CORPORATE TAX

This is a superb opportunity for a young corporate tax lawyer, 1-4 years qualified, to join this very well-known medium-sized commercial firm as number two in its corporate tax department. This guarantees you quality work and prospects that exceed those available elsewhere. Ref: T37750

OIL AND GAS/ENERGY

If you want to work in oil and gas (mainly upstream world), there are few better places to join than this top 10 firm. Not only does it offer you the chance to build quality niche expertise, but it will also give you excellent corporate grounding. Work on some of the biggest projects around if you have 2-5 years' experience. Ref: T36113

CONSTRUCTION

You can expect immediate and substantial responsibility if you join the construction department of this very well-known medium-sized City firm, which has a strong client base and reputation. All you need to get on here is 3-5 years' experience in a broad range of contentious and non-contentious work. Ref: T37751

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

Small is certainly beautiful for the company/commercial lawyer with 1-2 years' experience who joins this well-known City firm. You can expect quality work, real responsibility, client contacts and flexible hours, not to mention rapid promotion that will set you up very well for the future. An intelligent move. Ref: T36960

JUNIOR BANKING

If you want to work for a City firm that attracts the highest profile and most interesting jobs, as well as one that offers a full development and career plan, then this top 10 firm fits the bill perfectly. Newly qualified banking lawyers could hardly do better. Ref: T36961

COMMERCIAL IP

This highly-regarded medium-sized firm has a top IP department specialising in pharmaceutical, media and IT work. A lawyer with 2-3 years' experience will find the work very varied and challenging, including patents, copyrights, trademark and corporate support. Need good drafting skills. Ref: T36962

BANKING

The chance to join a major international investment bank as its first in-house lawyer does not come along too often for banking lawyers with 3-7 years' experience. So step it up when it does. You will be involved in a very wide range of work, and will be rewarded accordingly. Ref: T36963

PRIVATE CLIENT

This quality medium-sized firm takes private client work seriously and has a department that is expected to stand on its own two feet. This goes for its lawyers as well. If you have 2-5 years' experience and want to make a real career in private client, then this could well be the place. Genuine prospects. Ref: T37752

EMPLOYMENT

Join the employment department of this major international firm and enjoy huge responsibility and rapid promotion. A lawyer with 1-3 years' experience needs contentious and non-contentious experience for work ranging from executive share schemes to large-scale redundancies, tribunals, contracts and dismissals. Ref: T36964

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Quality work and prospects are offered to a commercial property lawyer with 1-4 years' experience by one of London's most progressive firms. You will be working for both landlords and tenants and, ideally, you will have experience of portfolio management. This firm expects you to take on responsibility. Ref: T36965

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Emma Gower, Adrian Fox or Kate Sutcliffe (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-406 8062 (0171-427 3474 or 0171-264 1966 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglas Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Road, London WC1R 4PT. Confidential fax 0171-431 4394.



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Fee income in our corporate department grew by 38% in 1996. We are ranked by the Legal 500 as a leading, medium-sized, commercial, City firm highly rated for both our MBO and M&A work.

Corporate partners made up in 1996 included one that had less than 7 years' pge and one who had just returned from maternity leave. We have a Head of Department aged 37.

Our growing success means we are looking for more corporate lawyers with 1-4 years' pge. We can offer something different. An internal culture which both motivates and supports. A growing client base which produces a rapid turnover of high quality deals. With us, a variety of work is guaranteed, not a privilege. We will help you to build on your technical excellence and to be more innovative and creative in your approach. Naturally, we will pay you a top City salary.

Our sense of purpose is to be the best. If yours matches ours and you want to get on fast, we would like to meet you.

To find out more about Berwin Leighton and opportunities in the corporate department, please contact our retained consultants Stephen Rodney or Alison Jacobs on 0171-405 6062 (0171-354 3079 0171-221 3699 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Recruitment, 27-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EJ. Confidential fax: 0171-631 6394.

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Cosworth is recognised as one of the world's leading automotive engine designers and manufacturers.

A young and dynamic lawyer is now sought to join the commercial department based at the company's headquarters in Northampton. The work will include the drafting and negotiation of a wide range of commercial documentation including agreements relating to the lease and supply of race engines to Formula 1 and IndyCar teams, design and development and product strategy.

The ideal candidate will be a Solicitor or Barrister with at least 3PQE and the ability to apply sound commercial principles to all issues affecting the company. You will advise management at every level on, inter alia, property, insurance, intellectual property and litigation matters and will, therefore, possess strong communication skills, combined with maturity and confidence.

Lipson Lloyd-Jones is exclusively instructed to handle this assignment.

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For further information contact:
Jon Garrett, solicitor
Simon Lipson, solicitor

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The work will include drafting precedents and preparing other know how materials. The post is envisaged to be full time, but excellent candidates who wish to work part time will also be considered.

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Salomon Brothers

TRANSACTION LAWYER

London 5-7 years' ppe £Outstanding + benefits

Salomon Brothers is one of the world's leading global integrated securities houses. Our clients include governments, government agencies, large and mid-sized corporations, institutional investors and financial institutions.

We are now seeking to recruit a high calibre capital markets lawyer to join the Transaction Structuring Group (TSG). The TSG deals with debt capital markets instruments; equity derivative products; emerging markets offerings and fixed income derivative products. In order to be considered you will be:

- 5-7 years' post qualified
- From a leading UK/US law firm or alternatively from a first rate US/European Investment Banking Firm
- Technically outstanding
- Commercial and robust.

In addition, the successful candidate will be expected to give advice on a range of issues including M&A work, advisory assignments, engagement letters and confidentiality agreements.

This position provides an opportunity to undertake a high profile, rewarding role with a market leader. We offer an outstanding working environment, excellent remuneration and package and an exceptional career opportunity.

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Assistant Business Affairs Executive

Channel 4 Television is looking for an astute and methodical negotiator to join our Business Affairs department for 6 months, while the current negotiator is on maternity leave. You will negotiate and document Channel 4's deals with independent producers on commissioned programmes, principally schools programmes. The role is both demanding and enjoyable.

To succeed, you will need to be diligent and have good organisational skills and an eye for detail. Above all, you will need to negotiate commercially and effectively. You do

not necessarily need to be legally qualified but a sound grounding in contract and copyright law and experience of working with media contracts would be preferable.

If you are interested in applying, please send your CV with a covering letter, including salary details, to the Personnel Department, 124 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2TX. Please quote reference AH/06.

Closing date for applications: 21 February 1997.

Interviews will take place on Thursday 27 February 1997.



Channel 4 is an equal opportunities employer and applications from people from an ethnic minority background are particularly welcomed.

CHANNEL FOUR TELEVISION

Company Secretary

Northern Home Counties

We are a well established, successful and acquisitive plc with worldwide sales of over £400M. We have subsidiaries and associate companies in the UK, Holland, Germany, Belgium, the Far and Near East.

Responsible to the Group Chief Executive, you will be involved in all aspects of public company and corporate administration, including secretarial matters relating to the main boards and Stock Exchange compliance.

You will have legal advisory responsibility, particularly relating to the drafting and vetting of contracts and the provision of advice to subsidiary companies. In addition, you will be responsible for group property and insurance matters.

You must be a qualified ACIS with a solid legal background, or a solicitor/barrister with some

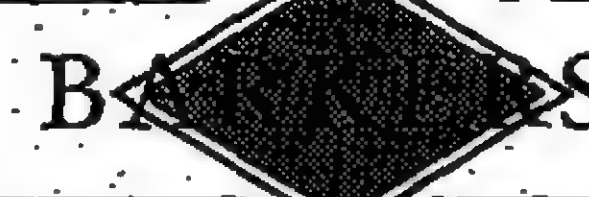
company secretarial/administration experience. Confidence, attention to detail, plus tact and diplomacy will be amongst the personal qualities essential for this broad multi-disciplinary role.

We are offering a remuneration package that includes a competitive salary and bonus, fully expensed company car, BUPA, pension scheme and life assurance.

To apply, please write with full CV and salary details to: Barkers Human Resources, Berkeley House, 35 Livery Street, Birmingham B3 2PB. Please quote reference M865.

Your CV will be sent to this client only. Please indicate any company to which your details should not be sent.

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An exceptional opportunity has now arisen within the Legal Department's litigation team at the Group's City head office. Suitable candidates will have the following credentials:

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- intellectual capability - which will include the ability to think laterally as well as logically
- commercial awareness and an aptitude for applying legal techniques to practical problem-solving
- a confident yet approachable personality and the communication skills for dealing with different types of people

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This assignment is being handled exclusively by Reuter Simkin, Legal Recruitment Consultants. To discuss the opportunity in complete confidence please telephone Philip Boynton LL.M., quoting reference 35395. Alternatively, send your CV to him at the address below.

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LEGAL ADVISER - BASS BREWERS Midlands



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As part of the strategic development of the legal function within the Bass Group a need has been identified for a lawyer to manage the legal affairs of the Bass Brewers Division.

As the UK's pre-eminent brewer and brand owner with an impressive range of national and regional brands including Caring, Tennent's, Caffrey's and Hoopers Hooch, Bass Brewers owns and operates eight UK breweries, has increasing interests overseas and continues to develop new products and areas of growth potential.

The Company seeks a highly motivated commercial lawyer with about 5 years' ppe to provide legal support and advice to management and staff in connection with both strategic decisions and day-to-day issues. Work will be demanding, but varied and stimulating including business acquisitions, drafting and negotiating various contracts, intellectual property, EC and regulatory affairs. A flexible hands-on approach is required together with strong interpersonal skills and business awareness. The job will require liaison with Group Legal Department in London and with lawyers in similar positions in other Divisions of Bass.

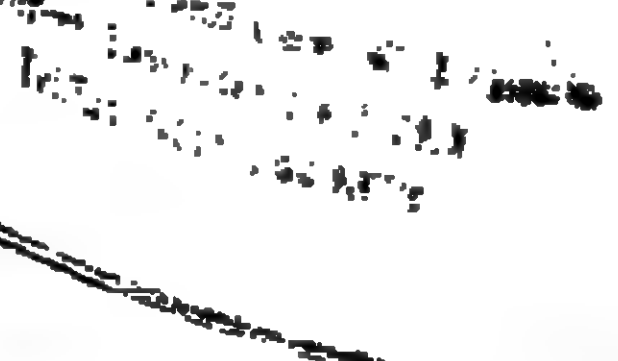
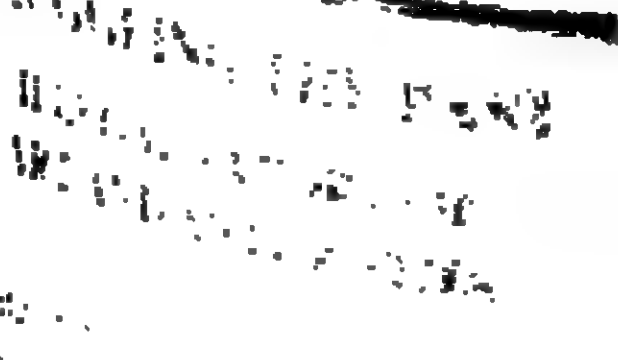
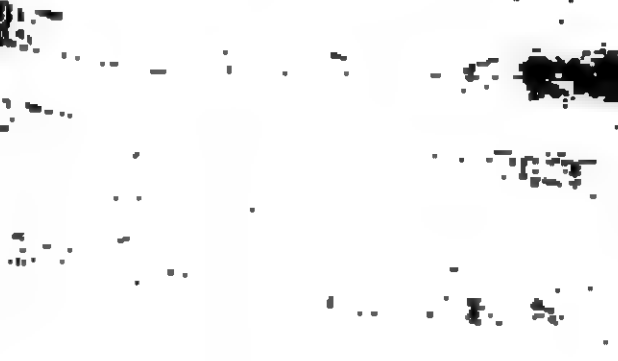
This position represents a unique opportunity for a bright and ambitious lawyer to become an integral part of a successful business in a dynamic and highly competitive market. In return there will be individual responsibility, rewarding long term career development and an excellent remuneration package.

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LEGAL A



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The firm of Ritch & Conolly in the Cayman Islands invites applications for an Attorney-at-Law with not less than five years experience in civil litigation. The successful applicant will be a barrister or solicitor, preferably with experience in general civil/commercial and/or trusts litigation.

Full details of salary package and fringe benefits which will include pension and medical insurance are available upon request.

Please reply in writing with full curriculum vitae by telefax or by post to be received by 28th February 1997 to:

Ritch & Conolly
P.O. Box 1994
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Cayman Islands
British West Indies
Attn: David Ritch, Esq.
Telephone: (345) 949-7366
Telefax: (345) 949-8652

Interviews will be conducted in London in March 1997.



Fox Kids Networks - Europe Director of Business and Legal Affairs

London

Fox Kids Networks - Europe is a newly formed subsidiary of Fox Kids Worldwide, owner of Fox Children's Network (USA), the leading kids network in America, and one of the largest producers of kids programming in the world. The company is currently in the process of launching branded television channels targeting kids throughout Europe and is expecting significant growth. A management team based in London is being established to support this expansion.

Fox Kids Networks - Europe, is now looking for an experienced, self-starter and motivated lawyer to join a young and entrepreneurial group at the European headquarters in a rapidly expanding start-up environment. Responsibilities will include review, negotiations and documentation of all corporate transactions in the areas of:

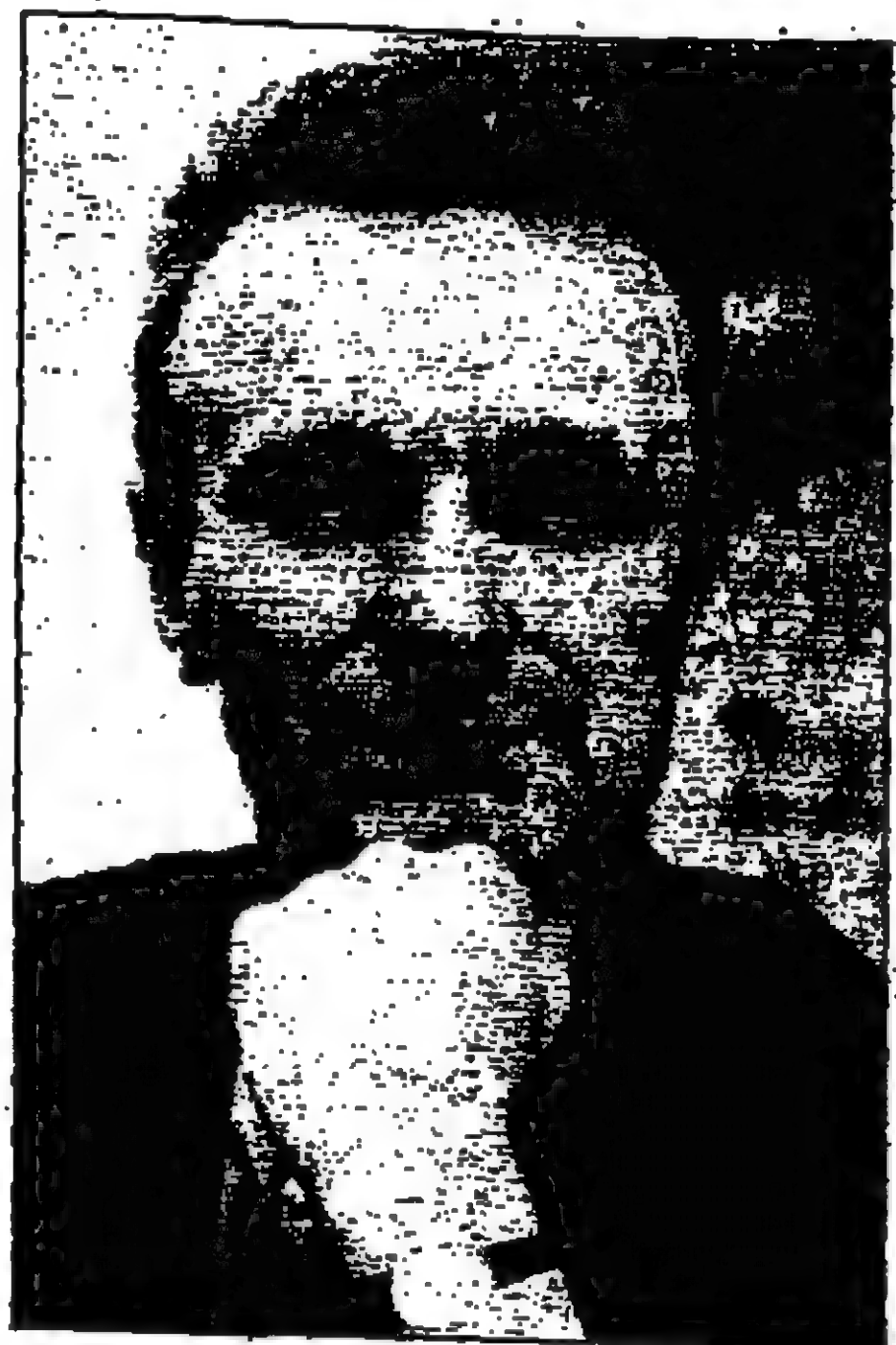
- Broadcast, direct-to-home and cable distribution
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- Program licensing and copyrights
- UK and EC regulations
- Joint ventures and corporate acquisitions

The successful candidate will have 4-6 years of relevant experience in the television industry with strong academic and commercial background. Experience in international transactions and knowledge of languages would be a distinct advantage, but not a prerequisite.

Please write in confidence, enclosing c.v. with current salary details, to Zoe Ferguson at the following address:

Fox Kids Networks - Europe
1 Northumberland Avenue
Trafalgar Square
London WC2N 5BW
Fax 0171 753 2886

The College of Law is poised to take a broader role, says Edward Fennell



Lift off: Professor Nigel Savage, the chief executive, today reveals his aim to take the college, above, into a new dimension



Services to last a lifetime

The College of Law has achieved lift-off. The college has for years had a solid reputation for ferrying graduates to a safe landing at the start of their professional training. But that is no longer enough. The tougher challenges lie further down the line in terms of career development and business management.

Professor Nigel Savage, the college's chief executive, today reveals his aim to take the college into a new dimension by providing a range of services and qualifications to last a lifetime.

"We have a vast amount of knowledge, which is only being partially tapped," Professor Savage says. "Our ultimate vision is to create a university for the legal profession which serves individuals and firms alike."

It is an ambitious programme, but will not surprise observers of the legal education scene. Professor Savage has already taken Nottingham Law School from comparative obscurity to a position commanding the highest respect from top lawyers in London.

Always critical of the Establishment, he was appointed last year to the top job in legal education in England and Wales. He was expected to give fresh energy and direction to an institution which

was widely admired, but which also needed to adapt quickly to satisfy a profession that has become more complex and diverse during the past decade.

But first, Professor Savage has secured the quality of his core provision by spending several million pounds on redesigning the Legal Practice Course so that it will be much better geared to meet the tough demands made of it by employers. A further substantial sum will be spent shortly on upgrading the college's computer system.

But the future of the college is also mapped out by entering new territories. The most far-reaching commitment is to assume the leadership role in the development of the profession as a whole. Professor Savage says: "We must assist the profession to face head-on the competitive, technological, and public policy changes that face us."

Professor Savage links leadership with partnership and diversity as the watchwords for the future. The changes to the profession have led to increased specialisation, and also a marked alteration in the environment in which lawyers operate, both in the high street and

the City. While the Law Society has some role in responding to this, the key lies in building up the skill base of the profession.

One gap that Professor Savage plans to plug is in research and development. While individual firms have invested massively in practically based R&D, there have been few complementary developments in academia. Now, in the same way that university research departments in science and technology have done for years, the college aims to develop partnerships with firms and universities in order to undertake leading-edge work on new approaches to legal problems.

New deals with law firms will also be struck over continuous professional development.

The college already operates the strikingly successful Legal Network Television, but much more is envisaged. Professor Savage wants to provide a comprehensive, cradle-to-grave service so that at each stage of a lawyer's — or paralegal's — career, courses are available in legal and management fields.

Likely to be of most immediate impact is a series of diplomas for

newly qualified lawyers, enabling them to gain awards in specialist subjects such as corporate finance, property, and criminal litigation.

Beyond that, there will be the chance to provide training for individual firms. As Professor Savage points out, the college is very good at designing courses. It has moved away from the old stand-up lecture, emphasising instead the use of case studies and the customisation of education and training to meet specific objectives.

In the longer term, Professor Savage is also conscious that the law is a tool which a growing number of people wish to use. Already he sees the creation of an advice industry around family law in which lawyers no longer have a monopoly. But he perceives this as being a genuine opportunity, not a threat. He argues that if lawyers respond constructively, they can form the core of new multi-discipline services. Rather than being sidelined, lawyers can remain centrally placed. The job of the College of Law in this situation would be to meet the educational needs of all the professions involved.

If all these plans come to fruition, then more people in more places than ever before are going to benefit from the College of Law. The Establishment is being back.

Geared to meet the tough demands made by employers

Stepping in to defend the public interest

The Attorney-General is in the spotlight again, reports James Morton



Sir Nicholas independent

When Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, the Attorney-General, decided recently to discontinue the prosecution in the first British war crimes trial, he was exercising his inalienable right not to subject a case to review by the courts.

"I had to make a public interest decision — to decide whether to grant a *nolle prosequi*," Sir Nicholas says. "That wasn't a difficult one. The jury had heard for over a week whether he [Szymon Serafinowicz] was medically fit and had come to the conclusion he was not. There is an option in the case of a very dangerous person to prove the facts, and seek a hospital order. This was not required in this case. There was no suggestion at all he represented a current danger to the public. I therefore issued a *nolle prosequi*."

In fact, over the past five years, the Attorney-General has received between one and two dozen applications annually to issue a *nolle prosequi*, usually on the ground of very serious ill-health. "In a larger way the Serafinowicz case was under consideration before we prosecuted him at all: consent was required under the War Crimes Act. Before I granted the consent to prosecute I asked his lawyers about his fitness to be tried and they didn't make any representations at that stage. When it came to the trial, if all the medical evidence had been one way I could have granted the *nolle* but there was a sharp difference of medical opinion."

There are five similar cases being considered on the evidence; it is uncertain whether any will reach a trial. Decisions are some way off. "Obviously the state of health will be considered. The oldest is now aged 79. If representations are made I shall listen very carefully and consider such things as medical certificates."

The Attorney-General is regularly in the firing line over decisions he takes in his public interest role. As part of his office he also leads in some of the most important cases of the day. "I have appeared in Luxembourg and Strasbourg. For example, I led throughout in the *Factortame* — the Spanish fisheries — case, but the frequency is

less than it was a couple of generations ago."

He was also involved in the recent case in which Greenwich council sought an injunction against a man who was alleged to have threatened to "do a Dunblane" on his release from prison.

Another of his functions in the public interest is his contempt jurisdiction. "It focuses on media cases with reference to the Contempt of Court Act 1981. Contempt occurs in proceedings when anything is published which gives rise to a substantial risk of prejudice to the administration of justice. In the Belmarsh case [in which the trial judge, after an article in the *Evening Standard* in London, stopped proceedings resulting from an alleged attempted prison escape], I shall have to consider whether there was a substantial risk. The practice is to receive a report from the trial judge and to give the Editor [in this case Max Hastings] the opportunity to make representations. I then take advice from specialist counsel. At the present time I am awaiting the report from the judge."

A whole swath of the Attorney-General's work is in the public interest domain. "I superintend the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Serious Fraud Office and the Director of Public Prosecutions in Northern Ireland. In that whole function I am acting as Her Majesty's Attorney-General, not as a member of the Government. I am appointed and can be sacked by the Prime Minister but in my public interest functions I can't be told what to do."

"My whole relationship with the Director of Public Prosecutions is of independence. I am answerable to Parliament and expected to be scrupulous in avoiding any political party taint to the exercise of my duties."

He also makes applications to the Court of Appeal where the sentencing appears to have been unduly lenient. "Every case is looked at by my team and then myself or the Solicitor-General, often both of us."

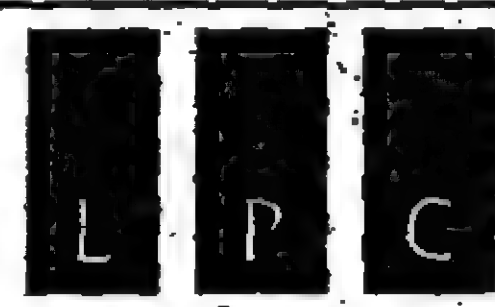
"I also take advice from Treasury counsel at the Old Bailey or a member of a small panel of experienced criminal lawyers. The fact that 87 per cent of applications have resulted in a sentence increase has had an effect in restoring public confidence."

Would he then like to see his powers extended as Labour proposes, so that he could refer every case in which a defendant appeared before the Crown Court? "It would swamp the system; if a large number were referred it would be impractical both for this office and the court."

"Judges are now very aware what is the proper range within which they should sentence. They are thinking about it more carefully than ten years ago."

Hastings: report awaited

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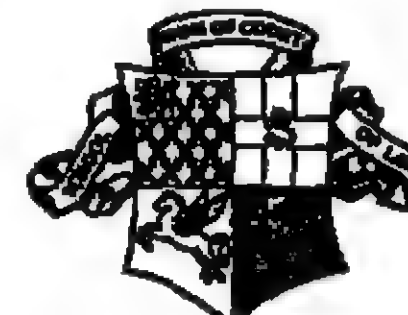
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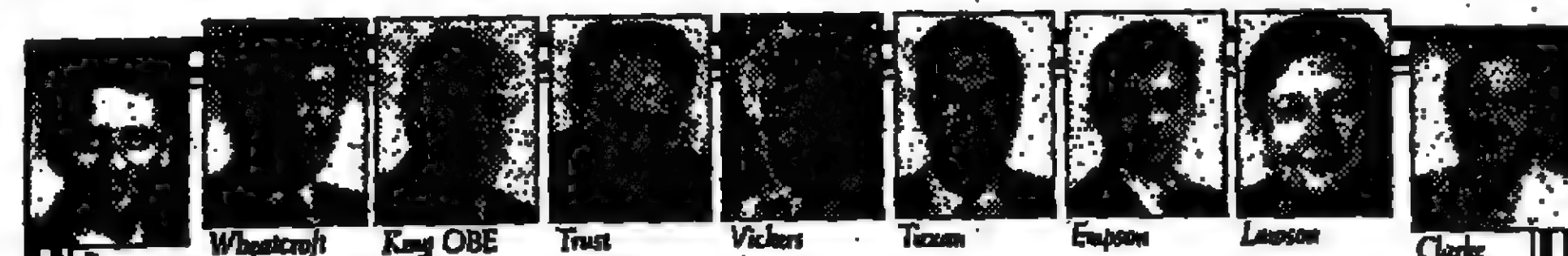
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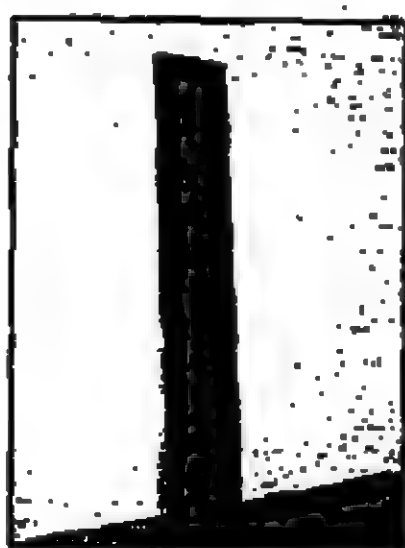
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■ VISUAL ART 1
Touched by the visionary: the Tate in Liverpool mounts a Paula Rego retrospective



■ VISUAL ART 2
Souvenirs from the future: John McCracken's new show hints at the shape of things to come

THE TIMES ARTS



■ MUSIC
At the Barbican Sir Colin Davis's Brahms cycle hits a lethargic patch in the Second Symphony



■ CD CHOICE
Building a Library assesses the merits of Ashkenazy and others in Borodin's Second

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork reports on the long, strange progress of Paula Rego; plus other shows

Postcards from Wonderland

Unlike so many artists who make youthful reputations with phenomenal speed and then fail to fulfil their promise, Paula Rego had a surprisingly slow start. Although her output was substantial after she left the Slade School of Art in 1956, a quarter of a century passed before Rego became widely known in Britain.

Today, at the age of 62, she is one of our most admired and popular painters. But why did this recognition take so long? Did Rego spend too much time in her native Portugal, enabling England to ignore the work she produced? Or did her gender prove an obstacle to early success over here?

An impressive new retrospective at the Tate Gallery Liverpool provides an excellent chance to consider the evidence. For the first time in this country, a comprehensive selection of Rego's work from 1959 to 1995 has been assembled. Her Slade period and its immediate aftermath is largely avoided, but one fascinating 1953 sketchbook proves that Rego's vision was already being defined in embryonic form.

Swiftly drawn figures swarm through its pages. The freedom and assurance of Rego's loose, summary handling bear the hallmarks of a born draughtswoman. Her teachers at the Slade would scarcely have approved of these brusque, impetuous studies. But her audacity was prophetic, and Rego already displays a preoccupation with the idea of human beings taking on animal identities. One dishevelled man crouches on all fours like a monkey, while elsewhere a woman laps at a bowl of milk with canine eagerness.

If Rego had pursued the implications of these quirky, unfettered drawings at once, she would have developed her mature style far sooner. But the lure of collage, and the growing influence of Surrealism, led her in a different direction. The hybrid creatures who slouch, huddle, gorge and urinate in that early sketchbook grow wilder and more difficult to identify. Rego adds to the confusion by

cutting them up, and applying them to her picture-surface in an anarchic manner, exploring a language where ambiguity thrives to an often baffling degree.

A strain of political protest enters her work as well. Salazar maintained his fascist rule in Portugal until 1974, and several pictures hit out at his oppressive dictatorship through parable. She called one especially gruesome painting *Salazar Vomiting the Homeland*, and her art often looked like the pictorial equivalent of an emetic.

Even at the height of her political wrath, though, Rego never lost contact with the impulses outlined in that student sketchbook. The animals stretching in a black, frieze-like strip across *Stray Dogs* (*The Dogs of Barcelona*) may be highly contorted, but they still have an underlying kinship with the uninhibited figures she drew in 1953. And as her polemical rage abated during the post-Salazar period, so Rego developed a more personal world with the help of characters from a children's toy theatre. She soon made them her own, abandoning collage to paint these gesticulating performers on large sheets of paper.

Using acrylic with fluency and verve, she unleashed a witty yet nightmarish cast of people, animals, phantoms and vegetables onto her shallow stages. Acting out their obsessions against backdrops of freely brushed colour, they mirror Rego's determination to dramatise emotions at their most forceful. Weapons are often brandished, whether by a rabbit leering at a fearful cabbage or by a bogeyman threatening small bears. Retribution is a constant theme, most alarmingly in a venomous image where a scissor-wielding wife slices off a red monkey's tail. Not all the pictures are fuelled by physical threats: one of them shows a rabbit telling her agitated parents that she is pregnant. But the possibility of danger never seems very far away.

At this stage, in the early 1980s, Rego staked everything on a bold, highly simplified way of working. The passions in these pictures are all of a piece with their headlong ex-



Affection or assault? *The Family* (1988) by Paula Rego "explores physical helplessness with mesmerizing authority"

pression. And she continued in the same impulsive manner when painting an equally macabre 1986 series, where girls cradle dogs like babies, feed them, hold conversations and even shave them with alarming cut-throat razors. Only a year later, however, Rego began to develop a more

measured style. Working now on a far grander scale, she gave her dramatic personae a greater weight and clarity. In an outstanding picture called *Snare*, a girl continues to focus her attention on a prostrate dog whose paws she clasps, half loving and half predatory. But the improvisatory pa-

nache of the previous pictures has been replaced by precise contours and an almost sculptural feeling for volume.

This new emphasis reaches its zenith in 1988, the year when her husband, Victor Willing, died after a long, debilitating illness. Physical helplessness is explored with

mesmerizing authority in *The Family*, where two girls grapple with a man in a bedroom. Although they might be helping him to undress, they also seem to imprison him. Cruelty motivates them as much as sensual desire, and he submits to their attentions like a mannequin incapable of resistance.

tance. A girl by the window, caught in sunlight, smiles and clasps her hands in a semblance of prayer. She appears to preside over the scene.

Her potent presence shows how much of a role childhood imagination plays in Rego's work. Growing up as a solitary girl in Portugal, she was immensely stimulated by the stories her female relatives recounted with relish. Their readiness to mix enchantment with ferocity ignited her own prodigious fantasies, and paintings such as *The Family* continue to feed off their inspiration with haunting conviction. Willing's death surely contributed to the prevailing aura of melancholy and loss: one superb painting called *Departure* shows a maid combing the hair of a heavily dressed young man, overshadowed by an implacable cliff-face as he sits near his coffin-shaped trunk. But the overall mood is serene rather than gloomy. Rego's private dread has been transmuted into a magical realm, where bewilderment is offset by a dream-like feeling of wonder.

These large paintings of the late 1980s, where majestic elaboration coexists with lucid simplicity, remain her most spellbinding achievement to date. They were bound to seal her reputation in the country that produced *Alice in Wonderland*, a book in which similar emotional extremes are brought into head-on conflict and laced with absurdity. If Portugal had warmed more to her earlier, more convoluted and political work, Britain hailed her only after she moved towards a wholehearted commitment to the figurative tradition.

In the early 1990s Rego sometimes becomes too divided and literal, burying her innate spontaneity with an excess of dogged detail. By 1994, though, the *Dog Woman* series proved that she had regained her ability to unlock a multilayered range of feelings, at once erotic and disturbingly humiliated. They go back at least as far as the canine figures in her 1953 sketchbook, suggesting that Rego still knows how to draw formidable nourishment from the bizarre stories she imbibed during her girlhood.

Paula Rego is at the Tate Gallery Liverpool (0151-709 3223) until April 13

John McCracken's bright lacquered sculptures are like souvenirs of the future, combining the strange agelessness of high Modernism with an almost self-prophesying sense of prediction. This show includes work from all stages of a long career; the works stand free, sit on simple plinths, are fixed to the wall or simply lean against it. McCracken's quiet minimalism looks positively talkative compared to the work of many younger sculptors and their use of off-balanced shape and pearled shiny surfaces to invent their own science fiction. It is possible to see how the very slightest shift away from absolute purity can let in a flood of reference, from the cherry-red central black column reminiscent of the black monolith in the film *2001*.
Lisson Gallery, 52-54 Bell Street and 67 Lisson Street, NW1 (011-724 2739) until Feb 22

Miles Manetas approaches the age-old question of painting and subject-matter as if he were a stranger. Having worked as an artist "with computers" for a number of years, he then made a perhaps surprising decision to paint pictures of them. At the end of the gallery an open laptop personal computer has been delicately painted with light shadow set against an olive-green ground. A familiar company logo emerges from a lightly blurred shimmering haze. Downstairs in the gallery Manetas rather spoils it all by including a real open laptop on a plinth, showing a series of photographs of gallery people.

Lotta Hammer, 51 Cleveland Street, W1 (011-636 2221) until Feb 15
THE very minimalist painter, Alan Charlton, has installed a pretty perfect show out of a "multimedia" commissioned by Riding House Editions. Eleven "elements" or paintings, thin shallow strips of steel wrapped or covered in fine, differently shaded grey painted canvases, have been placed at regular wide intervals at eye level. They pierce the space like arrows. They seem to combine the ideas of speed, haste, instant decision and layout with the stillness of absolute resolve.
Ridinghouse Editions, 63 Ridinghouse Street, W1 (011-255 1160), until March 1

SACHA CRADDOCK

CONCERTS: A Brahms centenary celebration; plus Ockeghem remembered

WHILE scholars seek to correct the misprints lately found in Brahms's published works, the existing versions have to serve the tributes for the centenary of his death, in April, already begun by Sir Colin Davis and the London Symphony Orchestra. The third of their commemorative

In no hurry

programmes at the Barbican focused partly on the Double Concerto.

Usually its performance involves violin and cello soloists

of individual repute, often with variable results. Here, however, the LSO's first violin leader, Alexander Barantnikov, and Moray Welsh, its principal cello, were sufficiently familiar with each other's style to constitute a well-integrated duo, and so to resolve difficult problems such as the combined double-stopped chords in the finale with poise and clarity, even if the pace was more jog-jog than dance-like.

Earlier in the concerto the cello's firmness of melodic line complemented the violin's keen articulation to purposeful effect, and both brought tenderness of feeling

to the eloquent main melody of the central slow movement.

Both soloists reverted to their orchestral positions for the Second Symphony, in which the slow pace favoured by the conductor put the sunniest of the composer's symphonies under something of a cloud. What should have captivated us at the outset by its turbulent vitality sounded almost like a slow movement.

Much of the rest evoked the composer's origins in northern Europe more than the genial Vienna of his adoption, although there was no lack of detail in the playing. The same was true of the *Sr Anthony Variations* at the start, each of which was invested with a distinctive instrumental character.

NOEL GOODWIN

Sweet harmony

WHILE most music lovers will be aware of the Schubert bicentenary, relatively few will have had their attention drawn to a much earlier songster, Johannes Ockeghem, who died on February 6, 1497. The Orlando Consort marked the day of his death with a superb programme at the Wigmore Hall.

Their Ockeghem concert featured part of a Mass setting, motets and a broad selection of his chansons, giving a welcome insight into the range of his great skill as a composer. For each of their projects, the Orlando Consort work closely with specialists in the field, who provide the musical editions and advice on every aspect of the composer's working context. The result reflects the latest thoughts of the musicological confraternity, but the performers bring their own experience to achieve an instinctive re-

sponse to the music. Especially resonant were the *Kyrie* and *Agnus dei* of Ockeghem's Mass *De plus en plus* as well as the Offertory from his Requiem. The vocal ranges can be extremely demanding, but the Orlando Consort created interpretations that were remarkable for their ease with a difficult idiom.

Special credit must go to the alto Robert Harre-Jones, who bore the brunt of Ockeghem's demands: singing with consistent sweetness of tone, he projected the composer's intricate melodies with consummate skill. This is not to underestimate the contribution from the lower voices, and one of the highlights of an evening of fine music-making was the group's perfectly balanced account of Josquin's lament on Ockeghem's death, *Nymphes des Bois*.

TESS KNIGHTON

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

BORODIN'S SYMPHONY No 2 IN B MINOR

Reviewed by David Fanning

IT TOOK Borodin seven years to complete his Second Symphony, while his great nationalist opera *Prince Igor* was on the back burner. Some of the themes he had composed for the opera went into it, along with the associated imagery of heroic warriors, dusky Polovtsian maidens, the pain and nostalgia of captivity, baroque narration and general merry-making.

Conductors who immediately capture a world of larger-than-life personalities and deeds include Loris Tjeknavorian, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Andrew Davis and Neeme Järvi. In more idiosyncratic ways so do Dmitri Mitropoulos, Constant Lambert and Enriquez Batiz (all very fast), Valery Gergiev and Evgeni Svetlanov (both slow-coaches).

In the symphony's lyrical moments Gergiev is in his element, and his Rotterdam Philharmonic woodwind are deliciously suave. Järvi and Svetlanov, both sturdily impressive in the more extroverted passages, tend to exaggerate the expressive swoons and lunges. Ashkenazy is especially stirring in the middle of the first movement and the finale, combining weight of tone and galloping rhythmic momentum, and the 1994 Decca recording captures orchestral perspectives more excitingly than any other.

The second movement is a bubbly scherzo with more



than a hint of Borodin's love for Schumann in its obsessive rhythmic drive and syncope. As in the first movement, Batiz and the Mexico State Symphony Orchestra hold the speed record, but they reduce the rhythmic intricacies to a gable. Dmitri Mitropoulos with the New York Philharmonic in 1940 gets the full measure of the music's driving energy. His is the best of the historic (pre-1960) versions, by a whisker from Kletzd and the Philharmonia from 1954.

This third movement is marked *andante*, not *adagio*. Conductors who drag the opening, milking the wonderful horn tune for expression, tend to make the more passionately flowing central section seem like an unconnected episode. Loris Tjeknavorian is especially bold in keeping the music on the move, and the straightforward singing quality of the National Philharmonic Orchestra woodwind makes up for their slightly dodgy intonation. For infectious enthusiasm and a sense of open-air freedom this budget-price RCA issue (RCA VD 60535, £6.49) is my library recommendation.

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Next Sat on Radio 3 (9am): Mahler's Das Lied von der Erde

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■ OPERA 1
Ignore the sceptics, says Bernard Levin: *Palestrina* is little short of a triumph



■ OPERA 2
Lohengrin triumphant: the Royal Opera mounts a night of Wagnerian splendour

THE TIMES ARTS



■ THEATRE
The sizzling *East is East* receives a quick and well-justified second London run



■ TOMORROW
Banking on new art: Lord Alexander explains NatWest's venture into the gallery business



Gosta Winbergh as a lyrical, golden-toned Lohengrin and Sergei Leiferkus as Telramund in Elijah Moshinsky's superb revival of *Lohengrin*

OPERA: Rodney Milnes reaches for his own superlatives to describe a triumph

YOU could almost say that there are two Royal Operas today. There's the increasingly dingy building surrounded by "road up" signs and huge holes in the ground, with a management under siege that doesn't quite know what it is going to be performing next season, or indeed where. And then there's a management that can put on a stunning show like this *Lohengrin*, which has had old hands reaching for superlatives and (a favourite and meaningless operatic pastime) their "not since" comparisons. Not since ever, actually: I certainly can't recall a *Lohengrin* of such musical splendour and rare dramatic conviction.

It is quite superbly conducted by Valery Gergiev. Naturally, he brings an invigorating freshness of approach to a score that is not central to his musical experience, a freshness signalled straight off in an account of the Prelude that is blessedly unportentous, almost brisk by comparison with the old German school, yet with a sense of serenity and radiance in full lyrical flow. That flow is maintained throughout the long evening, together with a sinew in the overall pacing to ensure that the music never comes to a halt, as can happen; and to one or two dangerously bombastic passages he brings disarming brilliance and vigour. Not that he shirks the big moments: the

arrival of the Swan is viscerally thrilling, and the climax of the second act lifts you out of your seat. The orchestra and Terry Edwards's chorus are at their most full-blooded and alert.

Elijah Moshinsky has returned to revive his 20-year-old production, which was always exemplary and still is. There's a complete absence of clutter in John Napier's gauzy set that enables Moshinsky to concentrate on essentials in both the background — pagan symbols on the few props, the Church Militant among the well-handled extras — and foreground action.

Seldom can the purely human drama have been presented so urgently. For once *Lohengrin*'s and Elsa's Bridal Chamber duet really mattered — Gergiev helped with his intensely dramatic conducting — and of course Moshinsky has a dream cast to work with: a *Lohengrin* in which the Herald is sung by Anthony Michaels-Moore, and the rest is to match, is somewhere

Lohengrin Covent Garden

near to operatic heaven. *Palestrina* is radiant as her presence. She produces streams of gleaming, steady soprano sound, only very occasionally allowing you

to notice that Elsa is a "big sing" for one so young. But she's clever enough to know this, and how to deal with it. She is also an inventive and communicative actress: Elsa's growing doubts about her up-market blind date were vividly, touchingly conveyed. When was there last a *Lohengrin* as lyrical, as golden-toned as

Gosta Winbergh? His complete technical security allowed him both to hit and to caress the high-lying phrases without a hint of strain. Magic!

Their adversaries are equally powerful: Sergei Leiferkus as Telramund makes every word tell and stalks the stage like Eisenstein's Ivan the Terrible, and Gwyneth Jones freezes the blood with her serene smile, which is about all she gets to do in the first act.

Thereafter there were one or two unruly notes and patches of thin tone, but you don't look for bel canto in an Ortrud: this is a performance of magisterial authority. Add René Pape as the King, and you indeed have a dream cast: don't miss it.

THEATRE: A sizzling Asian play

Zipped-up culture clash

East is East
Theatre Royal,
Stratford

DOZENS of productions have transferred from Stratford to the West End, but I can't recall a previous case of one that began Up West and then moved out to E15. While it is true that Ayub Khan-Din's play opened first at one of the Royal Court's central premises, where nothing is permitted to run for more than three and a half weeks, the swift reappearance is not only a mark of the work's novelty — first modern Asian play to dispense with a Prince springboard — but of its sizzling quality.

To call what Khan-Din has written an Asian play doesn't describe it exactly enough. Set in Salford in 1971, when East Pakistan is in the throes of turning itself into Bangladesh, the Khan family consists of George (Nasser Mehmood), a humourless disciplinarian, his English wife Ella (Linda Bassett), and six of their seven children.

The eldest son has already rejected his father's demands for total obedience, leaving home to be a hairdresser. Now George has arranged for the next two sons to marry girls from Bradford — Bradistan, the children call it — and revolt is simmering.

The author extends a little sympathy to the father, allowing him one moment of wordless grief at the corner of his fish and chip shop, but what stays in the mind is his readiness to knock his wife down whenever she ventures to interfere with his resolve to rear his offspring according to the customs of ancestral Muslim culture. The problem is that his children are growing up influenced by their two cultures, and what the play suggests is the anguish this brings them. The scenes in which they lark about their

home or in the chip shop are laced with good humour and acts of comical rebellion, but there is an undertow of anxiety. The youngest son will not be parted from the zipped-up security of his parka.

Yes, some scenes are rough at the edges, and rough in the middle too — a dispute between the two eldest boys turns to harmony too soon —



Linda Bassett as Ella with Imran Ali as one of her rebellious sons

but the play's qualities override such complaints. There have been plays before where parent-child stresses are complicated by adjustment to life in Britain, but these have been set in families from the Caribbean or West Africa. The interplay between the young actors in Khan-Din's play, sensitively directed by Kristine Landon-Smith for Tamasha Theatre Co, gives us not only the Asian angle, but the angle from six bright adolescent points.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Where has Pfitzner been all my life?

SECOND OPINION: In the first of a new series, Bernard Levin visits *Palestrina* at Covent Garden — and finds his worst fears confounded by a genius

I hope someone, apart from me, has noticed that Jeremy Isaacs's swansong has been trilled for the last time. No one could count the bruises he has endured in what is the most unrewarding post in any position in this land, except perhaps for the man who wipes up the mess when the dogs have finished running at Walthamstow.

But Jeremy's swansong was a strange one. Few had heard of it, and fewer still had heard a note of it. It is called *Palestrina*, and it was written by one Hans Pfitzner (who he?) and hardly had the first note of it been trilled, than cries of "Boring, old-hat, rubbish, waste of time, what did you call it?" were to be heard on these very pages.

It was, therefore, with a heavy heart and a disguise that I settled down in my seat to hear the first act of *Palestrina*, which, I had discovered, was a mere hour and three-quarters, with two more acts to come.

I settled further down. But, when some 20 minutes or so had gone by, I realised that I was in the hands of a great musician, and when another 20 minutes had passed, I knew that *Palestrina* came from the world of genius.

Palestrina was first performed exactly 80 years ago. It is by no means perfect when it came to shaping a mighty act Pfitzner was clumsy, and his three acts were shovelled together (*Palestrina* himself doesn't appear at all in the second act). Moreover, the story is a bizarre, to say the least: two

groups argue about their music — one camp says it is too novel, the other insists on the old style. So what? But when it comes to torture-chambers — and it does — one might think that music was going a little too far.

But the music! The music! It is no use trying to match it with this or that; Pfitzner and his genius pours out — from six o'clock in the afternoon to half-past ten. A good number of people left after the first act, and more did so

Oh, you fools who left at the first interval!

after the second. But I was nailed to my seat from beginning to end.

And now I must jump the hurdle, and jump with enormous glee. Four-and-a-half hours went by, and I never once thought of Wagner. When I got home he came back to me, and I began to realise that there are geniuses and geniuses, as if they needed to be told. No, Wagner's music is not like Pfitzner's. Some say that both flow like a stream, and if you take it literally that is indeed the case. But the two are not similar. At least, I cannot see the similarities. For one thing, the warmth of Pfitzner's stream is — the only word for it — beautiful.

Can a stream be beautiful? Yes, of course it can, and Pfitzner's is.

Then, what about Silla and Ighino, who start the whole story? They are both immensely touching, but listen to the music! Where is Wagner with such music? And then, what about the apparitions, nine of them? In any other hands they would be ludicrous; but listen to the music!

Oh, you fools who left at the first interval, and you who did the same at the second interval, you missed something important — not just important for finishing the music, but something important in your life. Come back, you fools, and listen — listen to music that you have never heard before.

No, I am not giving out ladders: is Beethoven better than Mozart, is Schubert better than Brahms, and all the silly wastes of time. I just say that Pfitzner's *Palestrina* is a work of genius, and deserves to — and will — live. For all I know, everything else that Pfitzner wrote might be monumental bludge. So what? We have *Palestrina*.

Never mind the second act: when you have understood it, you will realise that Pfitzner was an even greater genius. And when you have understood the first act and the second, you will not find it difficult to feel the tears on your cheeks. There he is: the broken man — broken in the heart and physically as well. And, as the broken man comes back to life, we know that we have been in the hands of genius.

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Mozart

Così fan tutte

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SNOOKER: FORMER WORLD NO 1 REPLIES IN STYLE TO YOUNG SON'S QUESTION ON CHAMPIONS

Small talk sparks Davis into finding title-winning effort

By PHIL YATES

STEVE DAVIS, who revisited the winner's circle after a 25-month absence by beating Ronnie O'Sullivan 10-8 in the Benson and Hedges Masters final on Sunday, believes that a family conversation over dinner influenced his unexpected re-emergence.

An innocent remark from Greg, Davis's five-year-old son, struck a nerve far more effectively than the countless articles in which Davis, the six-time world champion, has been written off as yesterday's man.

"I was discussing plans for the week ahead with my wife," Davis said. "We were talking about what I would do, depending on results, when Greg looked up and said: 'You'll go to the tournament, lose and come home like you always do.'"

Davis Jr was born two years after Davis equalled a record that he holds with Ray Reardon and Stephen Hendry for winning six world championships during snooker's recognised modern era.

As a babe in arms, Greg was present when his father brought home other trophies, but, before recovering from an 8-4 deficit to overcome O'Sullivan, Davis had failed to add to his career total of 70 titles since the Regal Welsh Open in January 1995.

"There was another occasion when Greg asked me if I'd ever been a champion," Davis, 39, said. "I was

amused, but it did get me thinking how nice it would be to get that old feeling back." In his 98th final, Davis held O'Sullivan to 4-4 entering the concluding session, but his hopes of victory were forlorn when breaks of 96, 72, 121 and 67 pushed the younger man by 18 years into an 8-4 lead.

Experience, patience and an ability to dictate the pace were vital ingredients in the Davis fightback, but, without accurate cue delivery and confidence, those qualities would have been rendered useless.

By gradually eroding O'Sullivan's resolve, Davis grew in strength as the contest progressed. He won two pivotal frames from well behind and, by fashioning a 130 clearance, collected the event's £15,000 highest-break award.

In terms of dedication and competitive spirit, Davis has much in common with Jack Nicklaus. By defeating O'Sullivan with such a sustained late spurt, Davis evoked memories of Nicklaus's heroics on the back nine at Augusta to deny Severiano Ballesteros and Greg Norman the 1986 Masters green jacket.

Davis described the result

as one of his best ever. It was also his most lucrative as the £135,000 first prize superseded one of £105,000 collected at the 1989 world championship.

Barry Hearn, the manager of Davis for 22 years, made a now infrequent visit to a tournament in order to witness an attempt by his longest-established client to defy the cynics who maintained that his name would never again be engraved on a trophy.

"I've told him: 'You're too old and too decrepit to reach finals,' but thankfully Steve didn't take me seriously," Hearn said. "It's like the film *Jaws*. Just when you feel it's safe to go into the water... Oh my God, the Nugget is back."

Davis, a 28-1 ante-post outsider, is too experienced to fall into a pit of self-delusion. He appreciates that it will remain tough to compete with the circuit's new generation and match the phenomenally high percentage of final appearances that he boasted during his heyday in the 1980s.

Davis, smoothly stroking the ball after incorporating "an easier, freer cue action", is adamant, however, that by becoming Masters champion for a third time, he has turned a psychological corner. If there can be one negative aspect to prevailing at the game's premier invitation event, it is that no world ranking points are earned — and that is the currency of which Davis is most short at present.

RESULT

8 Davis bt R O'Sullivan 10-8
FRAME SCORES (Davis first): 0-119, 72-113, 39-47, 76-50, 0-123, 82-46, 65-120, 56-72, 7-122, 4-75, 109-0, 69-27, 130-0, 65-48, 74-48, 58-1.



A delighted Davis raises the Masters trophy after winning his first title for two years

Thugwane puts deadly distractions behind him

By DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

Thugwane: attacked again

WHILE Josiah Thugwane was the centre of attention at South Africa House yesterday, Lawrence Theriault was relatively unnoticed. Thugwane's best marathon time may be slower than Pele's, but it hardly matters that he has never broken 2hrs 10min when he can claim to be South Africa's first black Olympic champion.

Another town, another reception. Thugwane is used to it. He failed to impress in his only marathon since the Olympics because he was too busy attending functions in his honour to train properly. He is determined not to make the same mistake for the Flora London Marathon on April 13. Today he is off to Colorado Springs to train, far away from all distractions.

Thugwane repeated his story of how, five months before the Olympics, he narrowly escaped with his life when his truck was hijacked and a bullet scarred his chin before

he jumped from the moving vehicle. Two weeks ago Thugwane was attacked again, requiring hospital treatment after being pulled from his car and beaten up.

Any anxieties that Thugwane may suffer behind a steering wheel in future would be as understandable as any nervousness that Pele may feel on a plane. Pele was booked on flight TW4800, from New York to Paris, which exploded off Long Island, killing all 230 people on board, shortly before the Games in Atlanta last summer.

Pele, an Olympic reserve, had been training with the marathon



squad in Albuquerque, but, with little sign of a team place opening up, he arranged to race in France. He had a late change of mind and, having sidestepped death, his lucky streak picked up. Xolile Yawa withdrew from the Olympic team and Pele ran and finished 27th.

Albuquerque to Atlanta was Pele's first flight since learning of the fate of TW4800. "It was revolting in my mind on that flight," Pele said. Flying from Johannesburg into London with Thugwane at the weekend was not the ordeal that it would have been six months ago, though. "I do not think about it now," he said. Pele's London target is to improve his best from 2hrs 10min 29sec. Thugwane's quickest is 2hrs 10min 46sec.

Thugwane's fame in South Africa is making life impossible for him, according to Pele. Pele said that, unless Athletics South Africa, and Thugwane's managers, tightened "the mechanism to protect this guy", his vulnerability to attack by those envious of his wealth would dis-

courage the next generation of athletes. "This guy cannot carry on like this," Pele said. "We can expect other guys to win gold medals and these athletes must be protected. It is demoralising the young of South Africa. They are not going to have the motivation to do athletics because they are going to be scared. They will think: 'What is the use if you are going to perform and at the end of the day, you will get killed?'"

In the interview on January 27 with Jane Griffin, the consultant nutritionist to the British Olympic Association, about the correct diet in preparing for a marathon, her views on eating red meat were misunderstood. They should have read:

"Meat is no longer a high-fat food and should not be excluded from the diet on those grounds. It is an excellent source of iron. Those who exclude meat for religious, cultural or moral reasons must regularly include other sources of iron in their diet."

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But how does the bail-bond system work? It only needed a sentence or two. I'm sure when I saw the film *Midnight Run* I understood it. A bail bondster puts up bail money, and then stands to lose it if the criminal skips court. So much is clear. But why does he put up the money in the first place? Why?

This was more of a "how" than a "why" film, however, following Ted and Ron's excellent adventure down the mean streets of Tacoma, bursting into cheesy flats and slapping cuffs on bewildered poor people. "I'm not in this business to hurt anybody," Ron upheld — and amazingly, you start to believe it — at the thought of the man he killed. Poor Ted bleached from view as Ron's moral stature grew, against all the odds. Save us, Ron! They may never make a freeway after you, but you are Tacoma's local hero, nevertheless.

great writer to mythologise their story, so they have left the bodies where they fell in heaps — in a world of lies and cover-ups, a heap of martyred bodies is a simple and undeniable memorial. And of course, fly-blown corpses deliver hard-hitting images to current-affairs producers, no matter what their journalism actually uncovers that is new.

11.45 **Film Night** magazine (5/10) (258782)
12.20am FILM: *The Cincinnati Kid* (1956)
 with Steve McQueen and Edward G. Robinson. An ambitious young poker player challenges a game by veteran player. Directed by Norman Jewison (805676)
2.15 FILM: *Baby the Rain Must Fall* (1961)
 a/w a drama with Steve McQueen as parole prisoner trying to keep on the right side of the law in a small Texas town. Directed by Robert Mulligan (142251)
4.00 Family Remains A black comedy (5522229)
4.35 Fugitive Love (1) (21582218)
4.50 Snowy (1) (45522386)
5.20 Almost Complete History of the 20th Century (1) (2732305)
5.30 Backstage (1) (1) (80657)

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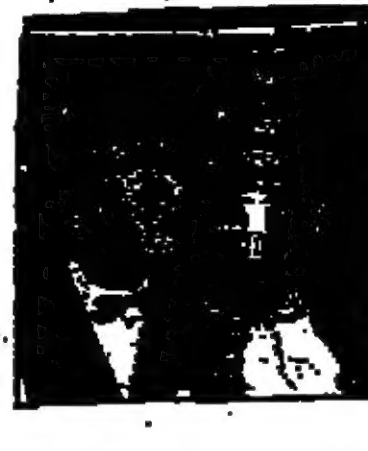
TENNIS 45

Henman succumbs to Sinner in first-round upset

SPORT

SNOOKER 46

Son's words set Davis on path to long-awaited title



TUESDAY FEBRUARY 11 1997

Doubts over England captaincy recede after emphatic victory in second Test

Victory strengthens Atherton's grip

Parore pays price for home side's failure

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN WELLINGTON

WELLINGTON (final day of five): England beat New Zealand by an innings and 68 runs

MICHAEL ATHERTON has won three overseas Tests as the England captain. The first two, in Barbados and Adelaide, were glamorous, improbable and largely irrelevant. Victory yesterday, in more prosaic surroundings here, was of far greater significance. For, in all probability, it has enabled a series to be won and a leadership regime to be saved.

Nobody in authority needs publicly to contemplate what would have happened if the result had been different and England had likewise failed in Christchurch, where the third and final Test starts on Thursday. All of them know that they might have been looking for new jobs.

This was the measure of England's emphatic, merited win and the impact of a compassionate turn in the fickle weather of this harbour city. If the rain that robbed this game of a day and greeted the players at breakfast yesterday had not relented in time, Atherton's hold on the captaincy would now be slight.

Unless the unthinkable happens and England subside in Christchurch, he can instead begin planning for the summer series against Australia. Atherton's abiding ambition is to win an Ashes series and he will now have the opportunity, judged by a ringing endorsement yesterday from Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, the chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board.

Michael is a very strong character and a great captain. "I am more than pleased for him today and I am excited about going on working with him."

There could be no plainer confirmation that the vote of the most powerful voice in the game will be raised in Atherton's support, and he will receive no argument from anyone within the England camp.

Even in his darkest hours of this winter, when his batting had regressed to awkwardness and his demeanour had grown negative, Atherton had devoted following in the dressing-room. Now that the elusive Test win has been secured, the strength of that following is being emphasised.

Darren Gough, whose withering burst of quick swing bowling just before lunch gained him four wickets for ten and brought New Zealand to the brink, spoke for the team. "Everyone respects Michael," Gough said. "He gives us all confidence. He is a great captain."



Gough, left, who took nine wickets in the match, celebrates England's triumph over New Zealand in exuberant fashion, while Atherton can afford a relaxed smile

It is, of course, facile to believe that anything much has changed through a single Test victory. England's cricket has not become mighty overnight, nor have the ills of the domestic system become any less serious. What this overdue result achieved was breathing space for a captain and a group of players who had suffered more than they deserved from the condemnation that will naturally follow a failure to win when it is expected.

David Lloyd, the coach, said: "It's an enormous relief, a sweet feeling for them all. I haven't felt pressure this winter, but I have felt disappointment. Everyone knows that criticism has been bouncing around, but it is my defiant belief that we had the upper hand in each of the Tests on tour and that we could easily have won them all. The lads were a bit touchy this morning, with the rain around, but we calmed them down, told them not to panic."

Lloyd, too, was generous in his praise of Atherton. Rightly, he identified areas of outstanding captaincy during this game, not least the decision to take Dominic Cork off after

just two indifferent overs with the new ball. Gough, duly summoned, decided the game within the next half-hour.

England had already suffered some frustrations. The rain had returned overnight and play was delayed for the third day out of five. A dry interlude permitted a start only 30 minutes late and the umpires allowed play to continue through steady drizzle. For almost an hour, however, the New Zealand fifth-wicket pair resisted doggedly.

The spinners were hampered by a wet ball, influencing Atherton to take the new

one immediately. It was five overs old when Gough swung in against the wind and broke through with his fourth ball. Gernon jabbing ineptly at an inswinger and squiring the ball on to his leg stump. In his next over, without addition, Gough brought a rare indiscretion from Pocock and the first of Knight's three slip catches ended the opener's 338-minute vigil.

Close catching was a feature of this England win. When Asle drove rashly at Gough, Stewart took off to his right to pluck the ball in front of first slip. Three balls later Doull edged to Knight and New Zealand went to lunch with eight wickets down, just as they had done before their remarkable escape in Auckland. "It was in our minds," Gough said. "Everyone will say it wasn't, but it niggled at us."

He need not have worried. Caddick, who had bowled magnificently before lunch, finally received recognition to finish the job half an hour into the afternoon.

His line had been consistent, his bounce constantly disturbing and the need to keep him out an immeasurable help to Gough. Now he took wickets, a leg-stump yorker dismissing Allott and a brutally lifting ball taking the glove of Cairns on its way to Knight.

Caddick finished with match figures of six for 85 and bowled every bit as well as Gough, who took nine for 92. In the buzz-words preached by Lloyd, they bowled with "menace" and "intensity" that, supported by the comforting teaming of two spinners, was altogether too much for a

feeble New Zealand batting order.

The England supporters — the majority of the crowd — sang and chanted in front of the pavilion. For them, too, it has been a long wait for an overseas win and they meant to celebrate it. England, however, have now won five and lost none of their past nine Tests against New Zealand. Both here and in Auckland, they have looked leagues apart.

"It's been a frustrating winter," Atherton said, "but the most important thing all along has been the level of performance. I have consistently said that our Test-match performances have been good and that, eventually, the win would come." For Atherton, as he well knows, it came not a minute too soon.

England won by an innings and 68 runs

Match award: G P Thorne

Umpires: B A Barber (first innings) and D B Cowie. Third umpire: E A Wadsworth.

Match referee: P J Burge (Australia). SERIES DETAILS: First Test (Auckland): Match drawn. Test to continue. Third Test (Christchurch): February 14 to 18.

Compiled by Bill Fendall

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings

B A Young c Stewart b Gough 8
B A Pocock c Cork b Caddick 6
A C Pearce c Stewart b Gough 4
S P Fleming c and b Caddick 1
N J Asle c Cork b Gough 36
C L Cairns c Hespain b Gough 36
H K Gernon c Stewart b Caddick 10
D N Patel c Cork b Caddick 45
S B Doull c Stewart b Gough 0
D Vettori not out 3
Extras (to 5, to 4, to 2) 7
Total (137.3 overs, 550mins) 283

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10 (Atherton 2, 2-40 (Stewart 41), 3-108 (Pearce 14), 4-125 (Pocock 43), 5-129 (Pocock 43), 6-134 (Asle 3), 7-175 (Cairns 10), 8-175 (Cairns 10), 9-182 (Cairns 15).

BOWLING: Cork 10-1-42-0 (to 2.4 hours, 4-1-20-0, 4-0-14-0, 2-0-8-0; Caddick 27.2-4-40-2 (2 hours, 6-7-4, 5-1-15-0, 5-3-10, 11-2-15-0; Gough 20-8-19-3 (to 1; 5-1-10, 15-8-13-3; Gough 22-8-24-7 (to 1; 4-0-11-0, 5-4-15-0, 2-1-4-0, 8-2-1-0; Turrell 25-4-28-1 (to 4; 1-0-1-0, 10-3-11-1, 4-1-4-0, 7-4-11-0).

SCORING NOTES: Fifth day. Lunch: 177-3 (96 overs, 358mins; Cairns 12, Allott 0). Second new ball: 147-4 (81 overs) at 11.27am.

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Compiled by Bill Fendall

NEW ZEALAND: Second Innings

B A Pocock c Knight b Gough 64
B A Young c Stewart b Tuffnell 56
A C Pearce c Gernon b Doull 56
D G Cork b Asle 7
D B Cowie c Fleming b Doull 0
D Vettori not out 2
Extras (to 5, to 4, to 2) 15
Total (103.2 overs, 398mins) 191

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-89 (Pocock 28), 2-125 (Pocock 43), 3-129 (Pocock 43), 4-125 (Pocock 43), 5-161 (Pocock 43), 6-164 (Asle 3), 7-175 (Cairns 10), 8-175 (Cairns 10), 9-182 (Cairns 15).

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Compiled by Bill Fendall

CROSSWORD

1 Use a straw (4)
2 Modern Byzantium (8)
3 Obscuring of egg sun by moon (7)
4 Rap on door (5)
5 Arguments on both sides (4,3,4)
6 Not often (6)
7 Made of flowers (6)
8 City and university (4,3,4)
9 Ring-tailed animal (5)
10 Fastest big cat (7)
11 Expressing in words: shaping in music (8)
12 Lascivious (4)

DOWN

1 Abashed, shy (8)
2 Knee-held instrument (5)
3 Regular, firm (6)
4 Accept confirm receipt (11)
5 Non-purchase in bookshop (7)
6 Body of water; a pigment (4)
7 Fun (4,2,5)
8 Decisive argument (8)
9 Bishop burnt with Cranmer (7)
10 High-kick chorus-line dance (6)
11 (Available) without limit (2,3)
12 Piece of film; fastener (4)

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings

B A Young c Stewart b Gough	8
B A Pocock c Cork b Caddick	6
A C Pearce c Stewart b Gough	4
S P Fleming c and b Caddick	1
N J Asle c Cork b Gough	36
C L Cairns c Hespain b Gough	36
H K Gernon c Stewart b Caddick	10
D N Patel c Cork b Caddick	45
S B Doull c Stewart b Gough	0
D Vettori not out	3
Extras (to 5, to 4, to 2)	7
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Compiled by Bill Fendall

Taylor warns of League collapse

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

GORDON TAYLOR, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, warned yesterday that the structure of the Football League could be in danger of collapse. His comments came in the wake of Millwall, the struggling Nationwide League second division club, dismissing Jimmy Nicholl, the manager, and 19 other members of staff.

David Buchler and Lee Manning, the joint administrators, who were called in a month ago, have also transferred 12 players and asked for a 10 per cent reduction in wages from those left at the New Den. Graham Horrop, the club's chief executive, was also asked to leave yesterday.

Taylor, though, is more concerned at the wider implications, with Bournemouth, of the second division, in receivership and Darlington, of the third division, experiencing financial difficulties. "The

base of the professional pyramid is beginning to crumble while the top is covered in gold," he said. "Perhaps there needs to be more liaison between clubs. I'm sure those in the Football League would give their fullest co-operation."

Millwall's cutbacks are expected to save about £1.5 million a year. "There have had to be some hard decisions, but they have been necessary," Buchler said. "The support

from the fans is now critical. If the club gets the kind of support that it should, there is a much better chance of surviving. If not, it will be difficult to carry on."

Millwall need crowds of at least 12,000 at every home match to break even, but at present, gates are averaging only half that. Buchler has not yet decided which players will be transfer-listed. "It would be counter-productive to sell the best ones because the club needs to get results on the pitch," he said.

Taylor is monitoring the situation closely. "While we appreciate Millwall's plight, a number of players, past and present, are owed a considerable amount of money," he said. "We won't tolerate anyone being pushed out the door unless there is mutual agreement." John Docherty, the former Millwall manager, has taken over from Nicholl, who was appointed a year ago.

Southend United, second from bottom in the first divi-

sion, yesterday suspended Ronnie Whelan, their manager, and dismissed Theo Foley, his assistant. Whelan and Foley were banished from the touchline during Southend's 3-0 defeat against Manchester City at Maine Road on Saturday, having been angered by a series of incidents.

Vic Jobson, the Southend chairman, said: "Foley was senior in age and experience and should have restrained Whelan. I take a very serious view of it." Jobson will wait until he has seen the report of Graham Laws, the match referee, before deciding on Whelan's future.

Stuart Pearce was distracted from England duties yesterday when Manchester City tabled a bid of £2 million for Chris Bart-Williams, the Nottingham Forest midfielder player, in a deal that would also see Tommy Wright, the goalkeeper, move to Maine Road and Nigel Clough to the City Ground, where they are at present on loan.

Southend United, second from bottom in the first divi-

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